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Latin America

Vol VI No 062 *1 April 1985*

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REACTION TO U.S. SENATOR'S STATEMENTS ON GOVERNMENT

Sanchez Rejects Statements

PY291625 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] During a press conference at Government Palace, Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez warned that there is a threat by the U.S. Senate to suspend all economic assistance to Bolivia unless the coca leaf and cocaine production in our country are reduced by at least 10 percent.

Sanchez rejected some details that are not in agreement with the reality in the country. It is essential to clarify such arguments since a news agency report carrying the exaggerated claim by the U.S. Senate is being disseminated throughout the world by the international agencies, Sanchez, stated.

The U.S. House of Represenatatives [as heard] is reportedly considering a draft resolution presented by U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins. She visited Bolivia precisely to comment about the results of the struggle against drug trafficking undertaken by the government led by Dr Siles Zuazo.

The interior under secretary, who personally led several operations against the illicit activity, felt that it became necessary to summon the press to reject the U.S. statements which place in doubt the effectiveness of the campaign undertaken by the Interior Ministry.

[Begin Sanchez recording] The report carries some statements which, of course, are not true. Therefore, we wanted to summon the press to refute some statements that were made during the press conference divulged by the United States, that is, that Bolivia is a bad investment for the United States. Mrs Hawkins has stated that no one is an exception; Bolivia has only one problem: It is run by criminals.

I believe that the senator has confused her terms. She made a very disrespectful statement and insulted the dignity of all Bolivians, particulary of those who fervently love Bolivia. We are poor but we are proud. She cannot tell us that we are criminals or that we are ruled by criminals. [end recording]

The reporters at Government House were surprised at the statements made by Sanchez. He said that Senator Hawkins has undermined the dignity of Bolivia and its rulers.

[Begin Sanchez recording] Siles is a statesman of continental influence. He is a champion of democracy. Senator Hawkins should not have made these statements. She went too far.

Regarding a telegram from the United States [word indistinct] a prisoner of the Interior Ministry, who was caught with drugs in his pockets, we will clarify the situation at the proper moment.

According to the news agency report, Democratic Senator Dennis Deconcini, who also supports the draft resolution, said that he absolutely [word indistinct] having to use this tactic but despite the fact that Bolivia has signed four bilateral agreements with the United States, it has done nothing to repress cocaine production. This statement is untrue. [end recording]

Sanchez refuted the statements made by Deconcini by giving an account of all the operations carried out against drug trafficking and the results of these operations. There is more than enough proof of Bolivian efforts, so the U.S. Senate committee is making decisions with wrong information.

[Begin Sanchez recording] Since August we have seized 3,500 kg of drugs and 11 small airplanes. We raided 17 farms, and in one of them, which is under the control of the Air Force, we found 4 drug factories and dismantled 32 others. We have recently dismantled another 137 drug factories and seized 22 vehicles. Some 150 persons are being tried as a result of these operations.

And what are the objectives of this campaign? To discontinue the selective aid given to us by the United States. The campaign has a political objective: Since elections are near, the U.S. senators are turning this into a campaign against the democratic parties of this country and they want to favor another candidate. [end recording]

Sanchez said that the attitude of the United States, particularly that of Senator Hawkins, aims at favoring the candidacy of General Hugo Banzer Suarez, former president of the Republic. By this, he meant that the U.S. campaign seeks to discredit the democratic parties of this country and to promote favorable conditions for the return of a dictatorship.

[Begin recording] A certain type of newspaper here is publishing a series of reports. Yesterday [name indistinct] published five reports about drug trafficking and its meaning. It even said that there are 7,000 children in Valle Pisando who are pressing coca leaves and that coca production increased 100 percent in the past few days in the [name indistinct] (Carachipampa) and in Valle Alto. This is plain slander. According to the press, now even the children participate in cocaine production.

What is all this publicity meant for? Well, to benefit a former dictator, of course. If the government of President Siles allowed children to press coca leaves, we would be preparing the way for another kind of government to take over, and this is also remarked on in the news agency report.

Maybe another kind of government, a repressive military government, would be more agreeable to the United States -- I do not mean to the U.S. people, but to some of its representatives, so that they would be able to enter freely into the country to spray herbicides or throw bombs over the coca fields. Bolivia has traditionally produced coca and will continue doing so because we, the Bolivian Indians, are accustomed to chewing coca leaves and this cannot be changed. [end recording]

Senator Hawkins also referred to the election issue. Sanchez harshly criticized the conduct of the U.S. Congress which has caused the government to hold a special meeting to discuss the draft resolution sent to the U.S. Congress.

[Begin recording] Let me read to you another part of the news agency report. It says: Mrs Hawkins said that Bolivia is undergoing a chaotic internal situation and that it cannot meet the demands to hold elections earlier because there are not enough funds, but, quote, the Bolivian Government has rejected more than $2 million we offered them to be able to call elections, unquote.

President Siles has never said that elections will not be held. President Siles promised that there will be elections, so there will be elections. Despite the poverty in our country we are going to hold elections. However, what the government of President Siles has rejected is an intrusion by a foreign country in our domestic affairs. Our foreign minister has said so very clearly, and it is not I who should respond to that. [end recording]

Rueda Criticizes Hawkins

PY291901 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena said that the statements made by U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins are clumsy, primitive, and insulting. Senator Hawkins recently threatened to demand that the U.S. Administration discontinue economic aid to Bolivia unless our country reduces coca production by 10 percent.

As known, Senator Hawkins has dared to call Bolivia a little country ruled by criminals. Minister Rueda said that this demonstrates the deceitful policy adopted by the United States.

[Begin recording] Senator Hawkins' reaction toward Bolivia is clumsy, primitive and insulting, and it is an affront to the feelings of U.S. people. [as heard]

I am sure that if the senator would have dared to speak in such terms in a European parliament she would have been immediately thrown out.

Senator Hawkins and two other U.S. senators have discredited the honor and prestige of the U.S. Senate, where it is inconceivable to think that people of this sort may use this slanderous language in referring to the democratic government of a Latin American country.

It is obvious, and we recognize it, that drug trafficking is currently one of the most unfortunate enemies of any civilized nation. The enemy to which Senator Hawkins refers to acts in an unrestrained manner in the United States handling millions of millions of dollars, acting with impunity among the most influential circles of American society. [end recording]

Minister Rueda harshly criticized Senator Hawkins, adding that the United States is the country with the most drug addicts in the world. Their vice is promoted by great criminal consortiums that operate inside the United States, where, despite the threat it represents to society, nothing much is being done to fight drug trafficking.

However, by means of ridiculously small amounts of economic aid the United States demands of us and other countries to resolve their problem, which is not exactly a Bolivian one. Rueda gave a good example when he revealed that 1 out of 10 Americans is a drug addict.

[Begin recording] How is it that with all its unlimited economic, material, technical and human resources, the main world power still has not been able to eradicate that internal enemy? How is it possible that the United States has still not been able to dismantle the Mafias inside its country, which have created a criminal empire with powerful branches in many Latin American countries? These Mafias are responsible for turning one out of 10 young Americans into an active drug addict, according to statistics. If drug trafficking exists in Latin America, it is because there is a heavy demand from the gigantic U.S. consumer market. [end recording]

Camacho Reads Statement

PY292331 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 2234 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] The government of President Siles a few minutes ago released a statement on the anti-drug struggle in our country, rejecting recent remarks made on the issue in the United States.

Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho read the statement.

[Begin recording] The democratic Bolivian Government has rejected with indignation the insulting statements some U.S. senators made during a press conference on the struggle against drug trafficking in our country. The government considers that such statements are unacceptable insults against the Bolivian constitutional government and people, that they are untrue, and that they have maliciously failed to take into account the Bolivian contribution to the efforts to eradicate this social scourge.

The images of the president of the Republic and his government are held in the highest regard in the eyes of the international and national communities. Therefore, arbitrary and groundless charges will not impair a prestige built over a whole lifetime devoted to the struggle for democracy, social justice, and human dignity.

The most tangible evidence of the uprightness of the president and his ministers is their renown personal austerity, which can be confirmed by any investigation into their assets.

Therefore, to link government officials with the dirty world of drug trafficking is a reprehensible, base action.

The responsibility for an evil that has spread internationally cannot be attributed only to Bolivia. Its eradication calls for joint action by producing and consuming countries to the extent of their responsibilities and within their economic possibilities.

This is why the democratic government has sponsored actions within the OAS, the United Nations, and at multilateral and bilateral forums with a view toward repressing drug trafficking. [end recording]

This is the main part of the statement that the Bolivian Government released a few minutes ago.

After reading the statement, Foreign Minister Camacho said that the remarks by Senator Hawkins are expressions of heavy-handedness that will deeply hurt the people and will elicit reactions that will jeopardize the ties of (?friendship) between Latin America and its powerful northern neighbor.

NEVES FEVER DECLINES; CONDITION NORMAL

PY300100 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0020 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Report from the Heart Institute of the Sao Paulo University Clinical Hospital by reporters Ivan Quadros and Ivete Alves]

[Excerpt] The medical team treating President Tancredo Neves, made up of Drs Walter Pinotti, Renault Mattos, Pinheiro da Rocha, Joao Baptista Rezende, and (Amata), has just met to analyze the president's condition in view of the changes monitored this afternoon between 1500 and 1700. According to the doctors, the president's temperature rose to 37.5 degrees, his heart beat reached 100/105, and his blood pressure rose to 17/9. The doctors have taken several measures in an effort to identify the causes of these changes. Some of these measures have already yielded preliminary results, because President Tancredo Neves is in good humor and has eaten again. His menu was the same: vegetable juice, apple juice, gelatin, and yogurt.

The fever has already come down and his condition is normal. The president had dinner at about 2000, in the company of his wife.

Doctors Satisfied With Recovery

PY301414 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1325 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Medical bulletin released by Presidential Spokesman Antonio Brito from Reboucas Convention Hall of the Heart Institute of the Sao Paulo University Clinical Hospital -- live]

[Text] Good morning. I will proceed to read medical bulletin No 10 [as heard] issued a few minutes ago to report on the health of the president of the Republic. The bulletin reads as follows:

The medical team treating His Excellency President Tancredo Neves, headed by Proffessor Dr Walter Pinotti, head of the Sao Paulo Gastroenterlogy Department, has issued the following information:

1. The president's general condition is good. His clinical condition has improved in the past few hours.

2. His psychological condition remains good. This morning the president received and talked with relatives.

3. Renal and digestive functions remain normal.

4. The changes in heartbeat and breathing recorded last night have returned to normal.

5. Intravenous feeding has been stopped. The patient is now being fed orally.

6. Biochemical blood tests do not show any changes.

7. Regarding the [word indistinct], the picture is as follows: The condition of the surgery wounds remain stable. Special care has been taken in the treatment of the incision. Special clinical, bacteriological, and therapeutic measures have been adopted regarding the infection, such as the culture of bacteria and the balanced use of antibiotics. Sao Paulo, 30 March 1035 (as heard).

I would also like to add that the doctors have reported that the president spent an absolutely calm night. This morning he met and talked with relatives and ate. Based on the tests carried out during the past few hours, the doctors are absolutely satisfied, that another stage in the recovery process of the president of the Republic has been overcome. Thank you very much.

ACTING PRESIDENT EXERCISES FULL POWERS

PY291155 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Report from Brasilia by Carlos Rodrigues]

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney has already assumed full presidential powers. Yesterday he held 16 meetings at Planalto Palace. He received ministers, governors, senators, and deputies. Most politicians have been mobilized to propose, in each state and at the national level, individuals to hold important secondary government-level posts.

This apparently simple issue requires a great deal of negotiations. Each political leader wants to place men of his political group in key federal posts.

Six northeastern state governors who have been at Planalto Palace have ratified their support for Acting President Jose Sarney and reiterated their previous proposals for the designation of names for those posts, Liberal Front President Senator Jorge Bornhausen has revealed.

[Begin recording] The governors have come to Brasilia to ratify their support for Acting President Jose Sarney and also to ratify the proposals made previously to President Tancredo Neves regarding the designation of individuals. [end recording]

The situation is so sensitive that Senator Carlos Chiarelli, leader of the Liberal Front, has issued a warning: These posts (?have been offered) to the Democratic Alliance. He added that the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], and the Liberal Front must reach an agreement regarding these designations in order not to jeopardize the alliance itself and, consequently, the political basis of the new government.

PMDB President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes and the president of the Liberal Front, Senator Jorge Bornhausen, are already seeking some understandings with the ministers. At Planalto Palace today Acting President Sarney will receive ministers and congressmen in his office. These are the most intensive activities to be carried out by the acting president today.

CHAMBER PRESIDENT ON NEVES, SARNEY'S ROLES

PY301601 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] President Tancredo Neves' recovery is good and there is no rush for him to leave the hospital and take over since his substitute is doing his job. These statements were made by Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Chamber of Deputies, who visited the president's family at the Heart Institute today.

[Begin recording] The president's recovery, as you already know, is developing in a very encouraging way for the entire political sphere and the entire Brazilian nation.

The doctors have the last word, and those of us who are responsible for the country's political life will strictly abide by the doctors' decisions. They will decide when he should be discharged from the hospital, and he will take over when the doctors consider that he is in a condition to do so. We do not want to rush things, we do not want to hurry, and we will not rush or hurry things. His substitute is doing his job. [end recording]

Ulysses Guimaraes ended by stating that as soon as President Tancredo Neves recovers, Acting President Jose Sarney will contintue to receive support from all the political parties. Guimaraes also praised the correct and responsible behavior of all political leaderships.

[Begin recording] It is a (?sign) of political maturity and responsible behavior. No one has taken advantage. No [word indistinct] nor political party tried to make the most of their electoral advantage. I, in my capacity as president of the Chamber of Deputies, want to praise this attitude [words indistinct] many politicians of all the political parties before the country. [end recording]

CHAMBER COMMITTEE APPROVES OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PY290212 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has approved the resumption of relations with Cuba.

Deputy (Marco Sorrena) has congratulated the Chamber Foreign Relations Committee for approving the motion submitted by Deputy Marcio Santilli on the resumption of relations with Cuba.

Afterward, the PMDB deputy from the State of Rio de Janeiro spoke on the situation of the Cuban people, citing data revealing their social conditions in the areas of nutrition, health, and education.

Deputy (Marco Sorrena) then noted that the Cuban Government has managed to eradicate most diseases from the population, reduced the mortality rates for mothers and children, and improved sanitation in the country. He also said that the Cuban Women's Federation, which has a membership in the thousands, actively works to improve health and hygiene conditions, especially with regard to mothers and children, while the Defense Committees include 85,000 branches and 500,000 members and the Peasant Unions and Associations work to maintain blood donor pools.

MILITARY UNITS CELEBRATE MILITARY COUP ANNIVERSARY

PY010027 Paris AFP in Spanish 2106 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 31 Mar (AFP) -- The 21st anniversary of the March 1964 military coup which overthrew President Joao Goulart and brought the military to power until 15 March 1985 was today celebrated in all Brazilian military garrisons. By decision of the ministers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the ceremonies were held exclusively in the military garrisons, in accordance with the order of the day, emphasizing the role played by the Armed Forces in reestablishing democracy in the country.

KIDNAPPINGS, MURDERS OCCUR ON DAY OF PROTEST

Workers Group Issue Statement

PY292212 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2049 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 29 Mar (TELAM/ANSA) -- With the indirect support of the Chilean Catholic Church, which although it did not participate directly, supplied the parish houses and other buildings to store the collected goods, the Chilean opposition as a whole today plunged into the national drive of solidarity, demands, and denunciation on behalf of the almost 1 million victims of the 3 March quake. For its part, the National Workers Command (CNT) joined the drive through its leader Rodolfo Seguel by calling upon President Augusto Pinochet's administration to lift the state of siege in order to begin the reconstruction in an atmosphere favoring the return of democracy.

The leaders of the opposition have stressed that the drive, which involves students, women, professionals, and political and labor leaders who belong to organizations that oppose the military regime assembled in brigades to collect aid, is not a national protest. However, the fact that it is taking place barely 2 days after the national protest called by the Chilean left, which was marked by an escalation of violence whose crowning point was the death of two military officers while trying to defuse a bomb and 15 persons injured by the explosion of another device, has surrounded the drive with created true concern. In order to dispel this tension, the organizers today stressed the dissidents' intention to propose to the nation an overall solution to the tragic situation resulting from the strong quake, which shook not only the very foundation of the Chilean system but the minds and conscience of the people as well. The CNT based its document of protest on this overall solution. It pointed out that the quake worsened the country's seveee crisis and that to overcome the situation the moralduty of the government is to implement measures capable of permitting reconstruction amid an atmosphere favorable to the return of democracy in the fatherland.

Meanwhile, the government has not voiced its opinion on the drive, although police surveillance had very obviously increased in areas of Santiago where dissidents usually gather during national days of protest to publicly voice their opposition to the regime.

Late this afternoon, opposition with the degree of concensus necessary to launch a "commission for national reconstruction and solidarity," in which all the forces of the opposition will participate without any exceptions.

Teacher Shot, Another Kidnapped

PY292336 Paris AFP in Spanish 2235 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Sources of the Chilean Teachers Association (AGECH) today reported that a teacher was shot at the gate of a school in Santiago where unidentified agents recently kidnapped five leaders of the organization. The incidents took place today in front of the Latin American Integration School, in the eastern part of Santiago, where unknown individuals riding by in a car shot Professor Leopoldo Munoz in the stomach.

After shooting the teacher, the agent kidnapped Manuel Guerrero Ceballos, a kindergarten teacher, and Jose Manuel Parada, a lawyer, who had arrived at the school to drop off his three children, according to eyewitnesses.

On Thursday, an unidentified commando group raided the printing shop of the Chilean Teachers Association and kidnapped leaders Eduardo Osorio, Alejandro Traverso, Jose Tolosa, and Monica Araya. AGECH President Jorge Pavez stated that "we hold the government and the Interior Ministry directly responsible for these actions."

However, the Interior Ministry has denied that police or security agents of General Augusto Pinochet's administration participated in the kidnappings.

AGECH claims to represent 10,000 teachers. Its leaders maintain a critical attitude toward the education policies of the military government.

Teachers Association Raided

PY292247 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1851 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 29 Mar (TELAM/REUTER) -- Leaders of the teachers union have reported that during a meeting being held at the headquarters of their association eight men carrying submachine guns broke in and, claiming to be policemen, arrested three members of the executive board and beat up four others. This surprise raid took place last night. The raiders destroyed documents of the teachers union and seized typewriters. Jorge Pavez, president of the association who reported the raid, said that everyone present in the building, where a publication of the opposition Chilean Teachers Association was being printed, had their personal identity documents confiscated.

Opposition Members Killed

PY312204 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0709 GMT 31 Mar 85

[By Juan Jorge Faundes]

[Excerpts] Santiago, 31 Mar (EFE) -- The violent death of six opponents of the regime of General Augusto Pinochet, three of them by unidentified individuals who kidnapped them and three in events labeled as confrontations, has created general shock.

Two of the dead are Professor Manuel Guerrero Ceballos, president of the Santiago branch of the Chilean Teachers Association (AGECH); and Jose Manuel Parada Maluenda, sociologist and official of the Santiago Archbishopric Vicariate of Solidarity. The other two dead are Rafael and Eduardo Vergara Toledo, 19 and 18 years of age, respectively, whose parents are officials of the Vicariate of Solidarity of the Santiago Archbishopric. The parents held press conference in the archbishopric.

According to Carabineros, the youngsters were killed on the night of 29 March after they were chased for trying to hold up a shop. They have records identifying them as subversive and militants of the Communist Party. Their homes have been raided and they have been processed for violating the arms possession law. The police reported that there was a shoot-out with the youngsters, who wounded one of the policemen.

Manuel Vergara and Luisa Toledo, parents of the youngsters, said during the press conference that their sons were leaders of Christian youth groups, thus denying the charges of subversion.

Also on 29 March, a woman labeled as a militant of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and carrying an identification document naming her as Isabel Plaza Fierro and also carrying an Ecuadoran passport under the name of Luisa Maria Andrade Rodos was killed in a Santiago district. No major details about this woman were given. The National Social Communications Agency (Dinacos) has reported that she was killed when she resisted in a shoot-out raid on her home. The police seized four submachine guns, several rifles with ammunition, a 60-mm mortar, explosives, and electronic detonators.

All of these events took place on 29 March when the opposition, through the National Command for Protest and Democracy, called for a day of solidarity against the regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

Also on the night of 28 March, a group of eight unidentified individuals kidnapped in the AGECH headquarters five leaders of the organization, who were later released on the night of 30 March in the outskirts of Santiago after being tortured in facilities which they were unable to identify.

Dinacos Confirms Murders

PY310134 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0040 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 30 Mar (EFE) -- Dinacos today confirmed that the bodies of Manuel Guerrero Ceballos and Jose Manuel Parada Maluenda, who were kidnapped on 29 March, and Santiago Natino Allende have been found. The bodies, which were found at approximately 1400 local time (1800 GMT), had their throats cut and knife wounds throughout their bodies.

Guerrero, who was president of the Santiago branch of the Chilean Teachers Association (AGECH), and Parada, a sociologist of the Santiago Archbishop Vicariate of Solidarity, were kidnapped on 29 March in front of the College of Latin American Integration by a group of unidentified individuals.

On that occasion, the kidnappers wounded Leopoldo Munoz, president of the Federation of Education Workers, in the stomach when he tried to defend his companions.

Santiago Natino Allende was a draftsman and his disappearance had not been reported.

GOVERNMENT JUNTA TO STUDY BEAGLE TREATY

PY281405 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Report from Foreign Ministry by reporter Jose Francisco Contreras]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today offered a full report to the president and the government junta on the peace and friendship treaty with Argentina.

Del Valle was asked by the press whether it is possible for the government junta to amend the treaty, and he replied that it is not possible to do so, adding that the junta simply has to either approve the treaty or reject it, regardless of the personal opinion of the junta members.

Asked whether the junta has 180 days to approve the treaty, Minister del Valle answered:

[Begin recording] No, nothing has been said about this, but I do not believe that it will take so long. However, that is an internal matter concerning the junta, so it is the junta which should solve it. I do not think that I or any one from the executive branch should give opinions about this matter. [end recording]

BETANCUR SENDS MESSAGE TO NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA

PA310003 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] The president of Colombia, Belisario Betancur, recognized the efforts being made by Nicaragua in the search for peace in Central America, in a message he recently sent to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. In the note Betancur thanks, on his behalf and on behalf of the other member nations of the Contadora Group, President Ortega for his willingness and cooperation so that our mission as promoters of peace may remain alive and strong. The message adds: "You and I agree that peace in Central America means peace in the world; therefore, any effort toward that objective should not limit our efforts in any way."

The Colombian president states in his message that a cold had prevented him from traveling to Brazil to participate in the inaugural of that country's new government; but he expressed the hope of seeing Commander Ortega: Mr president, be assured of my highest consideration and affection, the message concludes.

The Colombian president is expected to arrive Sunday in Nicaragua to meet with Commander Ortega as part of his tour of Central America countries and those of the Contadora Group.

PRESIDENT DEPARTS ON 10-NATION TOUR

PA302348 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota, 30 Mar (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today began a 144-hour tour of nine Latin American countries and the United States to call for peace in Central America. The Colombian president began his trip at 1950 GMT, when he left Bogota for Caracas, the first stop of his tour. Betancur was seen off at the military airport by Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, who will be acting president until Betancur returns to Colombia on Thursday.

NUMEROUS ATTACKS ON PEACE ACCORD ANNIVERSARY

PA291658 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- One policeman was killed and four persons wounded in various acts of terrorism staged on the eve of the first anniversary of the agreement signed by the Colombian peace commission and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. Thus far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which caused heavy property damage and prompted authorities to impose a curfew in Yumbo, an industrial area in Valle del Cauca Department which was the site of the most serious attacks. The incidents in Cali prompted the summoning of the Valle del Cauca Department Security Council, which will institute emergency measures to counter these terrorist operations, initially attributed to the Ricardo Franco Front, a FARC splinter group. Bombs went off in three Cali neighborhoods damaging several buildings.

In Yumbo, terrorists fired and hurled grenades at the home of a Conservative councilor and attacked a police station, killing one policeman and wounding three others and a civilian. Police and terrorists exchanged fire in several parts of the town. Military units cordoned off the town, but none of the perpetrators of the actions has been caught thus far.

In Bucaramanga, explosives went off in front of the 5th Brigade headquarters, destroying a car parked nearby. In Medellin, terrorists attacked a police station and placed explosives aboard a private bus. There were no casualties in these actions. Security bodies in Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, and Santander Departments reacted by immediately initiating operations to track down the perpetrators of this wave of violence.

COLORADO COMMENTARY ATTACKS OPPOSITION

PY282032 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Mar 85

["The Voice of Colorado" commentary]

[Text] Political agitators will seek any type of pretext in their efforts to create confusion amidst the atmopshere of tranquillity, respect, and enforcement of guarantees that prevails in our country. But, fortunately, since no one supports their actions, their perverse efforts are generally no more than vulgar and ridiculous exhibitions of the mental blindness that characterizes these small opposition groups, which only deserve the scorn and repudiation of the vast majority of Paraguayans.

One of these incidents took place a few days ago, on 22 March. This incident was on the occasion of the first anniversary of the indefinite closure of a mouthpiece of discord, which no one, except these professional subversive agitators, is even slightly worried about, since it is well-known that this mouthpiece was suspended at the right time. It was suspended not only to clean up the environment but also to preserve the well-being of our democratic and republican government institutions, which were the target of this newspaper in a series of intrigues and slander campaigns that instigated hatred and violence among Paraguayans.

On this occasion, which was reported several days in advance by the rag-tag opposition radio with its characteristic bragging, Msgr Rolon and Father Torres held a mass at the Asuncion Cathedral. But this should not come as a surprise, since our cathedral has been profaned for some time now by people at the service of international communist subversion which, under the pretext of holding masses for so-called religious reasons, is using the House of God for obscure political meetings.

As was expected, the mass was attended by representatives of the leftist opposition, including Rojas Leon, Romulo Perina, and Bonin [as heard], members of the so-called Christian Democratic Party; and Benitez Florentin, Abdon Saguier, Amarilla Goitia, and Gonzalez [as heard], members of the so-called Authentic Liberal Radical Party. And of course, to top it off, this group could not exclude Euclides Acevedo, Perez Caceres, Gustavo Garcia, members of the Febrerista Party and the three of four poor devils who make up the Colorado Popular Movement [Mopoco], headed by Gonzalez Casablance, who are service offshorts of the Socialist International.

But, of course, others who cannot be excluded from the mass were people like the "gay" [in English] Zuccolillo [Aldo Zuccolillo, ABC newspaper director], Lulu [as heard] Lara Castro [Carmen de Lara Castro, chairman of the Paraguayan Human Rights Commission], and Angulo Gaston [ABC newspaper legal adviser; Angulo deliberately mispronounced derogatorily] who trafficks with Cerro Porteno soccer club players, the employees of the suspended newspaper, and two other well-known (?characters) who could not be absent: the directors of the opposition radio who relished in their pleasure at hearing how members of the subversive opposition criticized the government and who attended the mass despite the fact that they claim to profess the Jewish faith.

All these very holy people listened to the very appropriate homily delivered by Msgr Rolon to commemorate the anniversary of the enforcement of a measure that was adopted to safeguard the peace and progress that the country is enjoying, a measure that the professional agitators who attended the mass believe to be unjust. They believe that many prayers have to be said so that this newspaper can reappear and so that it can again continue to apologize for crime, hatred and subversion among Paraguayans. This was undoubtedly the true objective of the mass.

After perfidiously lambasting the government -- how strange! -- a symbolic ceremony attended by some 35 people was held in the afternoon at the Catholic University at the initiative of a small group of students at the university's communications school. Of course, this was a prefabricated ceremony during which, after a speech by a student, the reporter and agitator Luis Alberto Mauro and the scholar Alcibiades Gonzalez Delvalle, who is also an Army deserter, took the opportunity to speak in the same tone of disapproval of the government action closing their boss' newspaper. When it was his turn to speak, the misfit, mentally deranged, Army deserter Gonzalez Delvalle, said that he does not accept the existing regime, to which he applied the label of an agonizing military regime whose days are numbered and other nonsensical labels along the same line. This causes us concern not because of this subversive agitator's utterances, but because he demonstrated that his insanity is worsening. So he is the one who will not last long, because he is bound to end up in the National Mental Health Hospital like other disturbed people falling in the same category.

Paradoxically, masses were said in other churches of the city the same day to pray for the preservation of the peace and tranquillity of the Republic, these precious social benefits that are making the progress and development of our country possible, to the chargin of the professional agitators, who are always isolated and rejected by the people who have grown tired of these carnival blabbermouths, political adventurers, and fishers in turbulent waters. These people can for the time being only keep beating the drum of lamentation over the unburied corpse of this mouthpiece of discord. These two attitudes are diametrically different: That of the few who want to set the country on fire and to build on top of the rubble an unimposing socialist republic where poverty, hunger, hatred, and persecution will be its hallmarks; and that of the absolute majority of people who want to live in peace so that our glorious nation can continue down the bright path of prosperity. On one side, a mass to preach hatred and violence; one the other, masses for the maintenance of the peace, tranquillity, and progress republic. It is sad to have to talk about these things, but we must so that citizens will not be taken by surprise and be deceived by the false apostles who surface both among self-styled politicians and presumed clergymen.

ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE DENIES PATRIA REPORT

PY271420 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Through its press office, the Asuncion Archbishop's office has denied a report published by the newspaper PATRIA which reads: "Thanksgiving masses were held yesterday -- 22 March -- for the peace and tranquillity that the country is enjoying and for the well-being of Colorado Party leader General Alfredo Stroessner in several churches in the capital and in the interior of the country."

"This information was discussed at the monthly meeting of the metropolitan clergy and all the priests of the parishes mentioned in the report and who were present at the meeting said that the report was false."

The archbishop's office statement adds that "it is regettable that the reader is deceived in such a way, particularly because it involves masters that should not be manipulated for partisan political purposes. The holy mass, a venerable religious activity, is at the service and reach of all men and of all legitimate needs of man and society. It cannot be exploited for selfish interests."

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY 60 DAYS

PY301326 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0220 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government today extended by 60 days the state of emergency in 13 provinces of Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Huancavelica Departments, in Tocache Province of San Martin Department, and in Daniel Carrion Province of Pasco Department.

This was announced by Prime Minister Luis Percovich after the cabinet meeting held at Government Palace in Lima. Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Huancavelica Departments have been under military control for over 2 years to combat terrorist actions.

Percovich also said that the Armed Forces and the police will step up their actions in the next few days in order to provide maximum guarantees for the general elections on 14 April. The Peruvian prime minister promised this when referring to the bomb attacks which occurred at various points in Lima on 28 March and which, he said, were aimed at creating an atmosphere of insecurity before the upcoming elections.

The extremist groups active in Peru, Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, have announced their intention to boycott the electoral process. Percovich said. however, that he was certain that the elections will be held under normal conditions.

It was also reported today that a mortar grenade, found near the Peruvian Congress building, had been defused. The police assume that it had been placed by terrorists.

GRENADE DEFUSED NEAR CONGRESS BUILDING

PY301122 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Republican Guard personnel have found and defused a high-powered mortar grenade near the Congress building. A Republican Guard bulletin reports that the grenade was placed in a pile of sand at the corner of Ayacucho Avenue at Plaza Bolivar, probably to attack congressmen. Police personnel found the grenade at 0745. They said that it would have caused serious damage if it had exploded.

PERCOVICH PRAISES AGREEMENT WITH CITE

PY291314 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca has expressed satisfaction over the agreement reached with the Intersectoral Confederation of State Workers, CITE, early yesterday morning after long negotiations. Percovich held a press conference in his office at the civic center yesterday, indicating that the new salary increase means 3.750 million soles for each workers. The prime minister added that although the increase cannot be considered spectacular, it can be considered substantial because it was approved within the fiscal possibilities of the government budget.

WAVE OF ATTACKS REPORTED IN LIMA 28 MARCH

PY292114 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1434 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE) -- There was a wave of attacks in Lima last night. While some attacks were repelled with gunfire, other attacks with explosives resulted in damage but no casualties.

The terrorists attacked two offices of the water company in different areas of Lima; an office of the Lima Electric Company in the Pueblo Libre District; and a bank located in the Vitarte District. The subversives also attempted to attack two Lima television stations, but were repelled by police gunfire.

In the attack on one of the water company's offices, the terrorists left a sign noting that the attack was perpetrated on behalf of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

These dynamite attacks destroyed doors and shattered windows in the buildings attacked.

SHINING PATH OCCUPIES VILLAGE, CUTS POWER LINES

PY300222 Paris AFP in Spanish 2247 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Tingo Maria, 29 Mar (AFP) -- A commando group of the Maoist Shining Path organization has occupied Naranjillo, a village in the Amazon Jungle, and painted slogans against the general elections slated for this 14 April, according to local police sources. The subversive commando group made up of approximately 20 people entered Naranjillo, a village of some 10,000 inhabitants located 560 km northeast of Lima, in the predawn hours of 29 March.

After cutting power lines, the subversives detonated several dynamite charges in the city hall. The explosions woke the residents of the village, who fled into the jungle. Another explosive charge was placed at the offices of the telecommunications station, but it did not explode.

The extremists also occupied the local school, where they painted slogans such as "Soldier, Don't Be a Murderer; No Voting; Down With Elections; and Long Live President Gonzalo (an alias of Abimael Guzman, founder and leader of Shining Path)."

Army and police units that arrived several hours later carried out an unsuccessful dragnet.

Some 2 months ago, Shining Path extremists killed 14 people near Naranjillo and dumped the bodies along the highway.

COSTA RICA

COLOMBIA'S BETANCUR ARRIVES FOR 4-HOUR VISIT

PA311820 Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur arrived here today and was welcomed by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. The two presidents will discuss matters of "mutual interest," according to official sources. Betancur, who is making a tour of several area countries and the United States, arrived at about 1130 (1730 GMT) from Panama. He will remain in Costa Rica about 4 hours, according to Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Gutierrez said that President Betancur will leave for Nicaragua, a country with which Costa Rica has had strained relations for the past few months because of border clashes and diplomatic conflicts. It has been reported locally that President Betancur will mediate between the two neighboring countries, seeking to normalize the situation. Official spokesmen, however, have not confirmed these reports.

EL SALVADOR

REPORTAGE ON MUNICIPAL, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Army on Full Alert

PA311359 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1227 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Electoral authorities have completed preparations for the parliamentary and municipal elections that will take place in El Salvador. Mario Samayoa, president of the Central Electoral Council [CCE], has described today's elections as one of the most important civic developments in the country's history. The Christian Democratic leader told a group of foreign observers that consolidation of constitutional order is at stake and admitted that there may be irregularities and minor problems during the elections. Although local observers believe that technical difficulties and threats and actions by the guerrillas will cause heavy abstentionism, the CCE president said that a low abstention rate is expected.

The Army has been placed on full alert to guarantee the elections. There have been clashes between FMLN guerrillas and the Army in the past few hours. The Salvadoran Air Force has bombed rebel positions on Guazapa Hill, 30 km north of the capital. Soldiers and guerrillas clashed near Cacaopera, Usulutan Department, on Friday night, but there have been no casualty reports, thus far. Eastern El Salvador is without power after FMLN sapper units blew up a power line to Usulutan, La Union, and San Miguel Departments. During their traffic ban, guerrillas have destroyed several buses and killed a woman traveling in a minibus. Meanwhile, the CCE reported that each of the nine political parties participating in the elections will have an observer at each poll. The CCE also announced that it expects to have preliminary results of the elections on Monday at the latest. Nine parties have registered candidates for the 62 legislature seats and 262 mayorships. The parties that will participate in today's election are: the Christian Democratic Party, PCD; the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA; the National Conciliation Party, PCN; the Democratic Action Party, AD; the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS; the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA; the Stable Centrist Republican Movement, Merecen; the Popular Orientation Party, POP; and the Renovating Action Party, PAR.

The ARENA-PCN right-wing coalition, which together with the PAISA and the PPS, holds a majority in the legislature with 34 seats against the 26 seats held by the PCD and AD, is seeking to increase its representation to exert full control over the legislature and thus check the current Christian Democratic administration. During the 1982 legislative elections the PCD obtained 40.7 percent of the vote; ARENA, 29.1 percent; PCN, 18.6 percent; AD, 7.7 percent; PPS, 3 percent, and PDP, 0.9 percent. PAISA was founded after the elections by PCN dissidents. Forecasts for this election do not foresee major changes in the current structure of the assembly. President Duarte's ruling party is not expected to obtain a majority in the legislature. During an interview the Christian Democratic leader said that he expected his party to obtain between two and five more seats. Duarte also denied that Washington is less supportive of his party than last year. He said that Washington's policy is to support the democratic process in El Salvador, not any particular party.

A top leader of the Salvadoran opposition has stated that the elections will not contribute to ending the war or reopening talks with the guerrillas. The elections, the fourth in the past 3 years, benefit only the United States, he said. During a press conference on Friday President Duarte announced that talks with the guerrillas will be resumed.

According to the CCE, there are 2.7 million registered voters, 1.8 million of whom will be able to vote. One of the main problems voters will confront this morning is the fact that they must cast their ballots at the polls where they are registered. The polling places that were set up for last year's elections will not be used during this election. An estimated 300,000 displaced people will face serious difficulties in getting to their hometowns as a result of the war. Also, public transportation is at a virtual standstill due to threats by rebels, who view each passing vehicle as a target.

Several towns and villages are controlled by rebels. Although there is no official report on this, it is expected that in at least 20 municipalities where there was no voting in past elections there will be no voting this time either.

Diplomatic circles have commented that the Salvadoran people seem tired of the elections. The electoral campaign was not as enthusiastic as in 1984, and the people have not shown much interest, the observers remarked. This has been some background on the elections by the West German news agency DPA.

This morning we toured southern San Salvador and were able to observe that public transportation in the capital is virtually nil. People who want to move about the city are doing so in minibuses and pickup trucks which are taking people to the polls, which will open at 0800. [as heard]

Guerrilla Operations

PA311639 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1559 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 31 Mar (EFE) -- Military sources report that guerrillas have placed roadblocks in several parts of the country to prevent vehicle and passenger traffic and have left the eastern part of the country without electricity. The roadblocks are aimed at preventing people from reaching voting booths for the legislative and municipal elections scheduled for today throughout the country.

A group of FMLN members is blocking traffic near the Chichontepec Volcano, in La Paz Department, according to military spokesmen. They added that troops have been sent to those areas to prevent guerrilla operations from disrupting the elections in any part of the country.

Polls Open

PA311338 Paris AFP in Spanish 1326 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Voting for municipal posts and the Legislative Assembly opened today at 0700 local time in most of the voting booths throughout the country, under strick surveillance by troops. Voting began early this morning in the capital and in the interior of the country. No incidents have been reported so far. Guerrillas, however, have sabotaged some electric installations, leaving some towns in the eastern part of the country without power. According to unofficial sources. Meanwhile, early this morning rebels clashed with soldiers guarding the Pan-American Highway at the km 100 marker.

DUARTE TO RESUME TALKS WITH GUERRILLAS

PA291853 Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today announced that he will resume talks with the guerrillas after Sunday's elections. The president emphasized that "regardless" of the results of the elections, the government will maintain its goal of seeking peace through negotiations with the FMLN and the FDR. During a news conference called less than 48 hours before the opening of the elections in which 60 deputies and 262 mayors will be chosen, Duarte said that the dialogue that began last year is "one of the main accomplishments" of his administration, as is the "professionalization of the Armed Forces." Duarte did not reveal the date when the government and opposition delegations will meet again.

Minister Prendes on Dialogue

PA301655 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Mar 85 p 1

[By Rene Hurtado]

[Text] "The government has faith in the dialogue initiated with the FMLN guerrillas. The third meeting will take place after the elections at an undetermined date." This statement was made to EL MUNDO by Presidency Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes when he was asked about some sectors' opposition to continuing dialogue with the extremists. Rey Prendes said the government had no direct contact with the extremists before the meetings that took place in La Palma and Ayagualo and that they were coordinated through the church, which is acting as mediator for these meetings. Rey Prendes added: It is true that "there are politicians who speak about this situation, but they never take a stand. This government is prepared to continue with the dialogue to solve our problems, and we will not accept pressure from any sector." The official said that the government is facing a various ideologies and that the social reforms demanded are also varied. He noted: "We have carried out many different reforms." Regarding the government's trust in the dialogue, Rey Prendes said: "We don't know if they, the guerrillas, want the dialogue for merely tactical reasons, which is what FMLN documents indicate." The minister acknowledged that because of the internal war, El Salvador has become a country dependent on economic and military aid and has been subjected to international pressure to devaluate the currency; but the currency has not been devaluated." [quotation marks as published]

Finally, speaking about the dialogue with the FMLN guerrillas, Minister Rey Prendes said: "This is a political mechanism to achieve peace, and although the Armed Force are more effective than the guerrillas and some day the situation would be solved militarily, we would prefer a political solution to put an end to the violence the people are enduring."

GUATEMALA

GUNMEN KILL FORMER GOVERNMENT MINISTER SOSA

PA312126 Paris AFP in Spanish 2022 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Retired General Manuel Sosa Avila, former government minister, was killed this afternoon in a residential area in the southern sector of the capital by a commando unit of armed men. Sosa Avila, who was driving in his private car, was machine-gunned when he stopped at an intersection. He died on the spot. Gen Sosa Avila was government minister between 1966 and 1970. He was also the commander of several military bases. Gen Sosa was also the brother-in-law of former Guatemalan President General Efrain Rios Montt, who ruled the country for 16 months, following a coup d'etat led by young officers. Gen Sosa has been linked to the extreme-right National Liberation Movement, whose presidential candidate, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, arrived at the site of the incident.

HONDURAS

SUAZO, CONGRESS CLASH OVER COURT APPOINTMENTS

Suazo Orders Judges Protected

PA291408 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service 1132 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Note sent by President Roberto Suazo Cordova to Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes, Armed Forces commander in chief, dated 28 March]

[Text] Presidency of the Republic, Honduras, Central America; Tegucigalpa, Central District, 28 March 1985

To esteemed Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes, Armed Forces commander in chief: As you know, during a session today the sovereign National Congress, in flagrant violation of Articles 304, 305, and 309 of the Constitution, dismissed the honorable magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice presided over by Attorney Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, chief justice. In addition, Article 4 of the Constitution was violated. In strict judicial terms, this constitutes a violation of constitutional order, and is thus a technical coup d'etat brought about by interests foreign to those specified by the Constitution of the Republic.

When I assumed the country's presidency on 27 January 1982, I pledged to by loyal to the Republic and to comply with and ensure compliance with the Constitution and the law. In keeping with Article 245, Points No 4 and No 16, I am obliged to ensure domestic peace and security in the Republic, exercise my duties as chief of the Armed Forces in my capacity as general commander, and adopt the necessary measures to defend the Republic.

Article 272 states: Orders issued by the president of the Republic to the Armed Forces via the commander in chief of the Armed Forces must be obeyed and implemented. To maintain national peace, calmness,and security; to prevent chaos, anarchy, and maintain constitutional order; and to exercise the previously mentioned constitutional powers invested in me, I hereby, instruct you to issue the corresponding orders to protect the building and magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, presided over by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, who were elected for a 4-year term by the current National Congress.

I take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate to you my distinguished consideration and personal appreciation.

[Signed] Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of the Republic

Bu Giron Supporters Removed

PA291502 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1210 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Report by correspondent Douglas Membreno and anchorman Rodrigo Wong Arevalo -- live]

[Text] [Membreno] Last night we learned that high-ranking officials of the executive branch were removed from office for supporting the presidential aspirations of Efrain Bu Giron. They include: Roberto Dip, superintendent of the National Port Enterprise; Jose Adolfo Guzman, regional director of the National Agrarian Institute in Atlantida Department; the governor of Santa Barbara Department, who was removed from office 72 hours ago; Ivette Rico de Ponce, regional director of the Natural Resources Secretariat; Matilde de Miralda, governor of Atlantida Department; and Santiago Gradis Herrera, governor of Francisco Morazan Department and chief of Tela's hydroelectric power plant. Removals are also expected in Copan Department.

[Wong Arevalo] Who will replace the governor of Francisco Morazan Department, who is also a support of Bu Giron's candidacy?

[Membreno] We do not have that information. However, there are reports that at least three more governors will be removed from office within the next few hours. This was said last night at the Presidency.

Rodists Endorse Suazo

PA291525 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1228 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Bulletin issued by the Central Directorate of the Liberal Rodista Movement in Tegucigalpa on 29 March; read by Rafael Pineda Ponce, of the Central Directorate, over the telephone -- live]

[Text] In the face of the incidents rocking the nation promoted by the boundless ambition of a group of bad liberals and false Rodists who are allied with 30 National Party deputies, representatives of the country's most obscure and regressive sectors, the Central Directorate of the Liberal Rodist Movement carries out its civic duty in expressing its firm and unyielding position as follows: 1. The Central Directorate of the Liberal Rodista Movement, on behalf of the thousands of national, departmental, and local leaders, activists, and sympathizers of this strong movement throughout the country, reaffirms its firm and solidaristic support for Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova in his dual position as general coordinator of the Rodist Liberal Movement and constitutional president of the Republic. It reaffirms its decision to fight on the side of the party's leader, Dr Suazo Cordova, to enforce the Constitution and the law, to preserve the democratic way of life and government, and to keep the Liberal Party in the government of the Republic to continue working for the material and spiritual progress begun by the current public administration.

2. It condemns the stand disloyal to the party of those who, out of desperation and boundless ambition, have become allies at the National Congress of the eternal enemies of the people to violate the Constitution of the Republic.

Jose Efrain Bu Giron, Jose Ascona Hoyos, Romualdo Bueso Penalba, Oscar Alvarez Brown, Maria Teresa Cardona Valdes de Torres, Manuel de Jesus Flores Ramirez, Hector Orlando Gomez Cisneros, Napoleon Guillen Mendez, William Franklin Hall Rivera, Alfredo Jailil Salomon, Carlos Orbin Montoya, Felipe Pena, (Francisco Siliezar), Jose Baloy Padilla Moreno, Marco Antonio Ponce Pagoaga, Pompilio Romero Martinez, Armando Rosales Peralta, Carlos Salgado Chavez, and Jose Tito Valle y Portillo will be remembered in the party's history as traitors.

3. The following true Rodists will by always remembered as defenders of the Constitution, the law, the government, and the Liberal Party: Rafael Antonio Ardon Fuentes, Juan de la Cruz Avelar Leiva, Antonio Orlando Benitez Perino, Antonio Blanco Moreno, Armando Fermin Mayorga Reuna, (Miguel Sayud Handal), Ada Argentina Santos Morales, Modesto Arnaldo Chacon Soto, Carlos Arturo Bueso Chinchilla, Manfredo Fajardo Aguirre, Carlos Roberto Flores Facusse, Justo Pastor Calderon, Jose Dolores Gonzalez Vallecillo, (Ivan Hughes Jones), Benigno Ramon Irias Henriquez, Jose Arnaldo Posada Lemus, Rafael Pineda Ponce, Irma Sossa Martinez de Pineda, Carlos Humberto Aguilar Pineda, Vilma Isabel Malta de Gutierrez, Roberto Micheleti Ibain, Rolando Melghem Bonilla, Idalia Gerondina Rivera Mendoza de Medal, Armando Moreno Alvarado, Jose Elias Nazar Romero, Mario Enrique Prieto Alvarado, Daniel David Quezada Fernandez, Maria Dilma Quezada de Martinez, Emiliana Umanzor Lopez de Calderon, Armando Munguia Gomez, Ignacio Alberto Rodriguez Espinoza, Gustavo Simon Nunez, Marco Tulio Rodriguez Palomo, and Rene Corea Cortez.

4. Honduran people, fellow leberals, and Rodist brothers: the skill, good judgment, and political ability of Suazo Cordova guarantee triumph and institutional stability. The rebellious, the maladjusted, and the greedy will get what they deserve through the people's permanent scorn.

Military Said To Support Suazo

PA291846 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1710 GMT 29 Mar 85

[By Francisco Javier Mejia]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Armed Forces have supported President Roberto Suazo Cordova's decision to reject the removal of the justices of the Supreme Court that the National Congress approved at midnight last night. The announcement stating the Armed Forces' position with regard to the conflict between the court and Congress was made by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, but no military source has confirmed it. The Honduran president asked the Armed Forces to "protect the building and the justices of the Supreme Court of Justice presided over by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo and elected to a 4-year term by the current National Congress."

A source at the Honduran Presidency in Tegucigalpa who asked to remain anonymous confirmed to ACAN-EFE today that General Walter Lopez Reyes, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, had agreed to the president's request. It is expected that the Armed Forces chief's response to President Suazo Cordova will be made known to the country through a radio and television network, the same source confirmed. Local political circles have expressed belief that the Armed Forces' reaction to the crisis is a key element indicating how the current institutional crisis created by the split between Honduran branches of government will be resolved.

In a message to the nation issued by President Suazo Cordova early this morning over a radio and television network, he said that the military leaders had "reaffirmed their steadfast support for the constitutional government."

The first visible action taken by the military in this capital was the cordoning off by police of the Supreme Court building, to which the new justices chosen by the National Congress will apparently not have access.

Several deputies who opposed the change in the Supreme Court publicly mocked the recently appointed justices, saying that they will have to set up office at Tegucigalpa's main square, because they will have no other formal offices. Other legislators who did agree with the change argued that the justices, not the building, make the court, and that its headquarters will be wherever the new justices meet.

The threats to call a state of siege have died down since various sectors involved in the dispute issued conciliatory statements. The new justices should assume office today, moments after which the announcement of the Armed Forces' support for President Suazo Cordova will be made, the government source indicated.

New Justices Sworn In

PA291953 Paris AFP in Spanish 1902 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (AFP) -- The Honduran National Congress swore in Ramon Valladares as the new president of the Supreme Court of Justice at noon today, together with four other justices. Immediately after the ceremony the new justices left the National Congress and proceeded to the Supreme Court building, accompanied by all the opposition deputies.

The Supreme Court building is being guarded by some 20 antiriot policemen, who were sent there on the orders of President Roberto Suazo Cordova, who does not recognize the new justices.

The new justices were sworn in at 1229, and in view of the conflict between the legislative and judicial branches, the opposition's deputies decided to accompany them to the Supreme Court building to assume their posts. The only deputies who remained at the Legislative Palace were those of the official party, who have remained faithful to President Suazo Cordova, who recognizes the court headed by Carlos Arita as the "legitimate and only" Honduran Supreme Court of Justice.

In a note sent to the Armed Forces early this morning, President Suazo requested protection for the Supreme Court building, as well as for Arita and the other justices, who have remained inside the building, stating that they will not leave their posts.

New Justices to Take Office

PA292032 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1905 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Report by reporter Trino Murillo -- live]

[Text] Thank you, Armando. It has been confirmed. The deputies have decided that the new Supreme Court justices will come [to the court building] tomorrow at 1000 to take over their posts. The deputies made that decision. All 50 deputies [supporting the new justices] will come to the Supreme Court to take office. I repeat: They will come tomorrow at 1000; Deputy Jose Azcona reported this information to Radio America's press department. Soldiers are asking us to leave the area. Most newsmen and all foreign correspondents have already left. Therefore, we will now also leave.

PNH Scores Rift

PA300329 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2243 GMT 29 Mar 85

[From the "Voice of the National Party of Honduras" program]

[Text] The nation is convulsed by the latest incidents involving the legislative and judicial branch leaders who, acting in haste to solve personal problems, have provoked a rude confrontation between the Supreme Court and the National Congress. Logically, this confrontation has a direct bearing on all the citizens, who can foresee that anarchy will lead to the destabilization of the democratic process in Honduras.

The National Party of Honduras, PNH, cannot detach itself from the problem because its deputies in the sovereign National Congress participate in the deliberations and vote on the issues discussed by this government branch. Each PNH candidate acts according to the party's internal guidelines and always seeks to safeguard the Constitution and other bylaws.

Nevertheless, the confrontation is exclusively a Liberal political problem, and the Liberal justices and deputies have taken sides according to their sympathy for each Liberal leader -- to the extent that all the Supreme Court justices have asserted their support for the judicial branch president. The Liberal deputies who do not support the official party candidate have joined the cause defended by the National Congress president.

All this can be concluded from the events we have been witnessing for the last 8 days. However, something even more grave is the source of this problem between the two state branches: the instability of our democratic system. This can be seen in the negative acts of the National Congress -- namely, disregarding decrees from the Supreme Court -- and the negative acts of the Supreme Court -- namely, disregarding the existence of a commission appointed by the National Congress to investigate its administrative activities.

The problem which currently prevails in our country is not just based on personal problems. Two government branches cannot interpret constitutional norms to favor their personal interests, instead of abiding by the constitutional norms, because this violates the Constitution of the Republic. Unfortunately, there prevails a void in the Constitution of our Republic which is extremely dangerous for our national interests: it does not state what must be done when the government branches violate the constitutional laws and insult each other by disregarding their respective decrees. The PNH, which is comprised of Hondurans who seek to work constructively, respectfully abide by the laws of the Republic, and defend our democratic system, cannot but raise its voice and protest against the role played by two state powers. Their negative actions endanger the democratic stability of the country and establish deadly precedents for our nation, which seeks to remain within the law. Each state power has its own constitutional purviews and everyone must respect them. No power is superior to another because none is subordinated to the other. However, if the state powers do not act according to the constitutional guidelines, they can provoke a lack of equilibrium in power and undermine Honduran institutions.

Democracy can only prevail when the government can coordinate all its constitutional activities because none of the state powers can guarantee the state's institutional integrity by itself. In addition, if contradictions arise between the state powers, to the extent of provoking confrontations, then the government will be destabilized and, as a final consequence, social chaos will come to break up our democratic system. Hence, the PNH condemns the conduct of the National Congress and Supreme Court of Justice -- as sovereign powers of the state -- because it violates the rights of the Honduran people.

New Court President Arrested

PA300013 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2308 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] We have just learned that Ramon Valladares Soto, the new president of the Supreme Court has been arrested by the police. We repeat. The new president of the Supreme Court, Ramon Valladares Soto, has been arrested. Here is the up-to-the-minute report: Valladares was arrested a few moments ago by Department of National Investigation [DIN] members. Here is a report by journalist Jose Ochoa y Martinez:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Rodrigo Wong Arevalo] Tell us how this arrest occured.

[Ochoa] We are speaking from the office of the Liberal Rodista Movement that is handling the precandidacy [precandidatura] of lawyer Efrain Bu Giron. Rodrigo, we want to tell the Honduran people and the Liberal Party that we don't want to alarm the people by giving them a report that has not been duly checked. Eva Reina de Valladares, wife of lawyer Valladares Soto, has arrived at our office. Valladares was elected as new Supreme Court president by the National Congress. She has reported that DIN agents have arrested Valladares. At this time, she and several lawyers who are members and leaders of our movement are trying to get the investigation authorities who arrested Valladares to release him. In addition, we have had no information on the whereabouts of our precandidate, Bu Giron, for the past hour. We do not want to alarm the followers of the Liberal Rodista Movement. We know that the Liberal government has pledged to protect both lawyer Bu Giron and those of us who are members and leaders of this movement. We also are aware that more repression will not be permitted. We appeal, however, to the calm and good sense of the DIN authorities and ask them to let us know whether they are holding Valladares, who is one of the most prominent Honduran lawyers. His outstanding characteristics have allowed the National Congress to appoint him the new president of the Supreme Court. Friends of Radio America, this incident has been reported and denounced in our office by Eva de Valladares, his wife. [end recording]

A few moments ago, we received a phone call from the office of lawyer Miguel Angel Rivera Portillo, who said that policemen were awiting for him at the door to his office. This report was sent to this radio station by one of Portillo's secretaries and it indicates that DIN members were waiting for Rivera Portillo. Apparently, however, he did not show up at his office. For this reason, he was not arrested. As it has been stated, it was reported at noon that Honduran authorities had issued an arrest warrant for the new magistrates of the judicial branch. Although the alleged crime of these magistrates has not been stated, we have received a report from the Bu Giron group indicating that Valladares, the new president of the Supreme Court, which was sworn in at noon, has been arrested by the DIN authorities. Radio America hopes to provide more details of this last-minute report.

Bar Association To Meet

PA300015 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2335 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Attention: We wish to report at this moment that the members of the Human Rights Commission of the Honduran Bar Association are now going to meet in view of the alarming news that is being reported at this moment.

It has been confirmed that Ramon Valladares Soto, the new president of the Supreme Court, has been arrested. In addition, Lawyer Miguel Rivera Portillo has reported by telephone to a member of Human Rights Commission of the Bar Association that he had to take refuge in a safe place because policemen from the DIN were ready to arrest him, but he was able to avoid them and take refuge in an apparently safe place. However, Rivera, who is president of the Honduran Bar Association, has not been shown any respect and is being sought. Fortunately, Rivera said, he has been able to take refuge in a more or less safe place.

A member of the Human Rights Commission of the Honduran Bar Association has just reported to Radio America that they are going to meet and most probably a meeting of the Honduran Bar Association will be convened to discuss this alarming development. The capital's population was surprised this afternoon by the arrest of Valladares and apparently an arrest warrant has been issued after a writ of charges [por cuanto] was drawn up against the two magistrates of the judicial branch. The Honduran population is watching these developments within the framework of a constitutional government with astonishment. This is incredible but true.

Bu Giron Phone Interview

PA300237 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2353 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Telephone interview with National Congress President Efrain Bu Giron at his office in Tegucigalpa by unidentified reporter -- live]

[Text] I have just been informed that a report has been circulated to the effect that I was arrested or kidnapped and that my whereabouts were unknown. I want to deny this report and tell my friends and fellow party members througout the country that I am at my office working. I wish to state that if anything happens to me I will hold the Supreme Court responsible because I have just learned that an arrest warrant has been issued for the justices who were sworn in today, who enjoy immunity; that lawyer Ramon Valladares, one of Honduras' most outstanding lawyers, has been arrested on orders from the First Criminal Court; and that arrest warrants have also been issued for all those who were elected and sworn in during today's session. These actions demonstrate the lack of reason fon the high court of impugn a resolution or decision by the foremost state branch. This is no way contributes to social peace. These actions only help to destabilize the government and this will discredit the government internationally. I ask lawyer Carlos Manuel Arita to stop trampling on justice.

[Reporter] Lawyer Bu Giron, the Honduran people were shocked when Radio America announced the arrest of Valladares. We feel that this could happen under any other regime except within the framework of a constitutional government that was democratically elected by an overwhelming majority of the Honduran people. Lawyer Bu Giron, how would you describe the order to arrest not only the president of the new judicial branch, but also the rest of the justices -- who include none other than the president of the Honduran Bar Association, lawyer Rivera Portillo?

[Bu Giron] Rivera is an outstanding, honest lawyer, whose professional career and private life are not tainted. They are persecuting all of them in order to jail them. I think that this action cannot in any way help the constitutional government. That is why I have said that we are not the ones who are destablizing the regime. It is the authorities and above all the judicial branch who are acting this way. We have clearly said that we do not seek to destabilize the regime, that we do not want to create the conditions to break up or weaken the constitutional regime, that what we want is true justice capable of giving prestige to Honduras both internally and internationally.

[Reporter] What juridical basis could be used to order arrest warrants and subsequently to arrest these justices?

[Bu Giron] Actually, I am not familiar with the process, although the custom now is to prepare the proceedings and to order them published before the judges know about them. This is a new modality of justice, which has a precedent in a recent case. However, at any rate, I think this is an additional act of arbitrariness by the Supreme Court because I understand that the judge of the First Criminal Court acted under instructions from the president of the Supreme Court or the justices. I think that the Honduran people must react positively to prevent this type of abuse, which augurs poorly for a democratic regime. What hurts us the most is the fact that this is our regime, that cost us, that was consecrated through the votes of a majority of the Honduran people.

[Reporter] This morning you held a dialogue with the president of the Republic, which was subsequently divulged through a recording. But what we heard was not really a dialogue with the president, but an argument because the president upheld his viewpoints and you upheld yours...

[Bu Giron, interrupting] What happened is that, let us say, our words crossed each other. I did not get this on the air. What happened is that I called him early, but he was not at his office and then he returned my call. He returned it at the Hall of Sessions, where there were approximately 10 newsmen and they recorded my statements. Also, it seems that they recorded his answers.

I have always tried to make our position understood, that is, that we have no intention of fostering a climate of intransigence, or a climate of violence. This is false. Those who are spreading this rumor are those who have been strongly criticized by various sectors of the Honduran people and by distingushed lawyers, including you. We have here a letter that was sent to Congress some time ago. It was signed by the most outstanding Honduran lawyers, including you, who complained about justice in our country. Protests have also been raised by the Catholic Church, the private sector, and all Honduran sectors about the administration of justice in Honduras. I think we must heed this reaction of the people because there is a state of legality in Honduras that has been created to guarantee freedom and justice to Hondurans.

[Reporter] Would you consider it wise to make an appeal to President Suazo Cordova, in view of his high office, to order the release of these fellow citizens who have been arrested by the police?

[Bu Giron] One of the things I told him this morning was that a climate of understanding should be established so he would not believe what many people are saying, that is, that we are engaged in a veiled conspiracy because this is not so. The Honduran people know me, and you too. You know I act sincerely. I have just made some efforts to get this arrest warrant suspended and to get Ramon Valladares released immediately. However, it already....

[Reporter, interrupting] Before whom did you make the efforts? Was it at the highest level, with the president?

[Bu Giron] I called the president and Edgardo Paz Barnica answered. He happened to be there and said that he would make a personal effort and that the president cannot give orders to the judicial branch.

[Reporter] However, in this case the president can indeed adopt a decision or an initiative and suggest that no abuse be committed against a group of outstanding citizens.

[Bu Giron] Yes. For the sake of national peace, for the sake of the Liberal government's reputation, for the sake of Honduras' name abroad, this arbitrary order to arrest prominent citizens should be canceled immediately.

[Reporter] Radio America endorses this appeal as a member of this country's democratic media, which has fully contributed to strengthening and consolidating the electoral process and the institutional process. Radio America makes a public appeal to President Roberto Suazo Cordova to exercise his high office as head of state of this nation and issue an order, that is, make a suggestion or appeal to the judicial branch, or to lawyer Arita Palomo, to cancel the arrest warrants and release those who have already been arrested, like Ramon Valladares Soto, and to lift or cancel the arrest warrants and stop persecuting the other lawyers who were sworn in today as new justices. Lawyer Bu Giron, Radio America joins in this request. Would you like to add something else?

[Bu Giron] Another thing. One of those who have been captured or are being persecuted, informed me that I am also on the list of those to be arrested.

[Reporter] This is incredible....

[Bu Giron] It is incredible, but it is also possible, in view of developments.

[Reporters] You are the president of the National Congress. You enjoy immunity. In the first place, you cannot be arrested!

[Bu Giron] I have an invitation here from the foreign minister to attend the reception that will be held in La Paz in honor of President Belisario Betancur, who is one of the most democratic presidents in America. If I am arrested I will send him a letter and tell him that I was deprived of the pleasure of greeting him because I was not allowed to do so. This may be speculation but, the way things are developing, it may happen.

[Reporter] This is absolutely incredible, Mr President of the National Congress. This is completely incredible. No one can conceive an arrest warrant being issued against you, who is president of the sovereign National Congress and a deputy who enjoys immunity in every sense. This is incredible.

[Bu Giron] Things are happening here. This morning, I discovered that while I was absent because I had gone to eat, a double padlock had been installed in the private session room, next to the office of the president. I need this room not only to meet with the deputies, but to receive important visitors. When I returned in the afternoon, I found that padlocks has been installed inside. This is an abuse by deputies who are blind with power. I blame Juan Avelar, the assaulter of the Central Executive Council, for this.

[Reporter] Mr Bu Giron, we make an appeal to the good sense and wisdom of the president of the Republic, of Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova. Furthermore, if he is listening to this broadcast -- and we indeed believe he is listening to it in La Paz, his birthplace, or here in Tegucigalpa...

[Bu Giron, interrupting] He is here in Tegucigalpa.

[Reporter] In Tegucigalpa, to communicate with this station and to offer an apology to the Honduran people, who backed him so he could reach the presidency and who, in some way, continue supporting him.

He should apologize because it is just not possible that this type of abuse we have heard of today -- which we are sure has shocked the entire nation -- has been committed under this type of government, which is subject to and totally supported by an institutional framework.

[Bu Giron] I think we should take advantage of this opportunity to tell the deputies that we should meet in emergency session here to review these problems because I do not think that we should act irresponsibly and abandon the fellow deputies who are being persecuted.

[Reporter] Do you think it would be wise for us to call all of the deputies to an emergency session?

[Bu Giron] That is so.

[Reporter, interrupting] One minute, please...

[Bu Giron] This would be an informal emergency meeting.

[Reporter] This is a last minute report. We are calling all deputies of the National Congress to an emergency session at the National Congress.

New Justices Charged With Treason

PA300207 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0058 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] The First Criminal Court of this department issued warrants this afternoon for the arrest of the new justices of the judicial branch, who have been charged
A few minutes ago, this information was confirmed by reliable sources. We repeat, the First Criminal Court of this department this afternoon issued warrants for the arrest of the new justices of the judicial branch who were elected last night by the National Congress and sworn in today at the legislative palace. The charges are high treason, according to the warrant for the arrest. One of the justices, Ramon Valladares Soto, has been held at Casamata [general police headquarters]. This was reported by Valladares himself when he called his relatives to ask them to bring food and clothing.

At this moment, we have learned that the National Congress is crammed with congressional deputies who were urgently called by lawyer Efrain Bu Giron. Bu Giron called the deputies through Radio America this afternoon to attend an urgent informal meeting. Meanwhile, one of the members of the Human Rights Committee of the Honduran Bar Association convoked its members for an urgent meeting to discuss this case, which is unprecedented within the framework of a constitutional government. So far, the reason why the criminal court issued arrest warrants has not been established, but it is believed that the charges will be usurpation of power and high treason.

Lawyer Rivera Portillo, president of the Honduran Bar Association, and one of the new justices, fled this afternoon as the authorities tried to arrest him near his private office. Rivera Portillo is a partner of lawyer Carlos Roberto Reyna, and was nearly arrested by the members of the Department of National Investigation, but was able to escape and proceed to a safe place. There is no information on the whereabouts of the other justices: lawyer Martin Alvarado, lawyer Lozano Martines, lawyer Vasquez. This was an official report by Radio America.

Doctor Reveals Valladares Ailments

PA300226 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0112 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Telephone interview with Dr Rolando Garcia Rivas by Radio America anchorman Rodrigo Wong Arevalo, in Tegucigalpa, on 29 March -- live]

[Text] [Wong] Attention, attention: Lawyer Ramon Valladares Soto, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, who was sworn in today, suffers from a serious disease. We will now talk with his personal physician, Dr Rolando Garcia Rivas, who wants to tell our authorities about Valladares Soto's ailment. Dr Garcia Rivas, what is the ailment of your patient, lawyer Ramon Valladares Soto?

[Garcia] Good evening, pressured by the circumstances, I am compelled to reveal that Ramon Valladares Soto cannot remain under arrest since he suffers from two ailments. The first one is chronic heart disease; the second one is a bleeding peptic ulcer. I believe that these two ailments are reason enough for him not to remain incarcerated. I will issue the corresponding medical certificate, authorized by the registration number as member of the National Medical College of Honduras, No 250-866-831. Mr Wong Arevalo, you have been very kind; good night.

[Wong] Thank you, Dr Rolando Garcia Rivas. We hope that the proper authorities will give you the authorization to see your patient.

Congress Denounces Arrest

PA300314 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0140 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Report by David Romero]

[Text] The National Congress has issued the following message:

To the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.; the International Interparliamentary Union; the Latin American Parliament, Lima, Peru; the Andean Parliament, Caracas, Venezuela; the other parliaments in the world; Tegucigalpa, 29 March

The National Congress of the Republic of Honduras denounces the fact that Supreme Court President Ramon Valladares Soto was illegally arrested this afternoon. We also denounce the fact that arrest warrants have been issued against the other Supreme Court justices, who were elected and sworn in today by this sovereign National Congress. We request your solidarity to safeguard democracy, justice, and abidance by the Constitution.

Liberals Council Condemns Arrest

PA300515 Regucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0339 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party in Tegucigalpa on 30 March]

[Text] The Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras, legally elected at the great convention held in April 1983, informs the Honduran people in general, and the Liberals in particular, that:

1. At this time of trial for the Honduran nation, we will be faithful to the Constitution, which rules the peaceful coexistence of all Hondurans, and faithful to the doctrinal principles of the great Liberal Party of Honduras, which are a clear and affirmative expression of true democracy.

2. We firmly support the democratic ideals on which this constitutional government was founded.

3. We support the honest, firm, and patriotic attitude of the president of the sovereign National Congress, citizen Jose Efrain Bu Giron, who has only tried to safeguard the people's interest and ensure the honest and efficient application of justice.

4. We strongly and categorically condemn the arbitrary arrest of Ramon Valladares Soto, president of the honorable Supreme Court, and of the other magistrates, deputies, and alternates who, elected by the people's sovereign will manifested by its highest organization -- the sovereign National Congress -- were duly sworn in today.

5. We blame those who devised and those who carried out such shameful incidents that darken the peace in the Republic and shake the democratic principles which are supported by our ideology.

6. In this hour of tragedy for democracy we ask the Liberals to remain on alert and to express solidarity in whatever way they can with their legitimate authorities, who will remain faithful to the principles and tenets of the great Liberal Party of Honduras and guarantee strict compliance with its laws.

Tegucigalpa, 29 March

[Signed] Romualdo Bueso Penalba, president; Pompilio Romero Martinez, general secretary; Jose Simon Azcona del Hoyo, secretary for political training; Rodrigo Castillo Aguilar, secretary for youth, worker, and peasant affairs; Oscar (Abrego Duran), member

Supreme Court Issues Orders

PA301310 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1135 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice, through its secretariat, yesterday instructed all the country's judicial bodies to refrain from conducting any acts or procedures in their jurisdictions ordered by members of the Supreme Court of Justice recently appointed by the National Congress. These are the messages:

Tegucigalpa, 29 March

Justices of the peace throughout the Republic:

Instructions: Please refrain from receiving orders or instructions from the unconstitutional court formed outside the law by the National Congress, since only the court presided over by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo is the consitutional court recognized by the government of the Republic.

[Signed] Otilio Banegas M., secretary

Tegucigalpa, 29 March: Property registration officials throughout the Republic; Judges of first instance throughout the Republic; Instructions for the courts: We recommend that you remain calm and serene in fulfilling your functions. We also reiterate that in your resolutions and other actions you strictly adhere to the law, as you have been doing to date.

Yours truly, [Signed] Otilio Banegas M., secretary

Tegucigalpa, 29 March: Courts of first instance throughout the Republic

Instructions for the courts: We announce that you are granted the following days off: Monday, 1 April, Tuesday, 2 April, Wednesday, 3 April. You must complete hearings that you have pending for those days. Acknowledge receipt.

[Signed] Otilio Banegas M., secretary

Tegucigalpa, 29 March: Appeal courts throughout the Republic

Instructions for the courts: We announce that you are granted the following days off: Monday, 1 April, Tuesday, 2 April, and Wednesday, 3 April. You must complete hearings pending for those days. Acknowledge receipt.

[Signed] Otilio Banegas M., secretary

Second Criminal Court judge: On orders of the Supreme Court of Justice, please refrain from receiving orders or instructions from the unconstitutional court formed outside the law by the National Congress, since only the court presided over by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo is the constitutional court recognized by the government of the Republic.

Yours truly, [Signed] Otilio Banegas M., secretary

President of the First Appeals Court: On orders of the Supreme Court of Justice, you are notified that the following days off have been granted: Monday, 1 April, Tuesday, 2 April, and Wednesday, 3 April. You must complete hearings pending for those days. Acknowlege receipt.

[Signed] Otilio Banegas M., secretary

Suazo Reassures Bu Giron

PA301355 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the calmness and serenity that prudence, good manners, and customs dictate, Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova has spoken over the telephone with Efrain Bu Giron, president of the sovereign National Congress. He did so without at any time getting overexcited, and he used the opportunity to invite the president of the legislative branch to his office or residence so that through frank and constructive dialogue they can try to overcome the differences that have developed.

With the frankness characteristic of him, Suazo Cordova reminded his friend and fellow party member Bu Giron how he and other deputies who have established an alliance in the Congress have flagrantly violated the Constitution be trying to replace some honorable members of the Supreme Court of Justice. He told him that although they might publicly deny this, it is more than evident that they have violated constitutional Articles 304, 305, and 309.

With the dignity befitting a president, he reminded Bu Giron that he has a true friend in Suazo Cordova. He reiterated his invitation to come to his office or his residence whenever the president of the legislative branch wishes. Suazo Cordova reminded him that he had sent him an invitation to go to the city of La Paz to welcome U.S. Vice President George Bush, an invitation that Bu Giron unfortunately did not accept, and therefore he did not attend the welcome for the U.S. official. Nevertheless, Suazo Cordova publicly invited him to receive Colombian President Belisario Betancur in La Paz. As a good friend, President Suazo Cordova advised his fellow party member not to listen to gossip and intrigues such as those that say there are persons who want to kill Bu Giron. He told him that those speculations are groundless and that he can be assured there is no one who wants to assassinate him.

The president lamented that his friend Bu Giron persists in refusing to undertake a dialogue, because each time that he has called him for this purpose Bu Giron has refused. The president also lamented that the president of the legislative branch does not want to listen to reason. Suazo Cordova reminded him that he, Suazo Cordova, has the support of the Honduran people.

Bu Giron on Suazo's Invitation

PA301406 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1220 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Last night on the lower floor of Congress, specifically in the sessions room, there was a rumor circulating that Colombian citizens had addressed the Colombian ambassador in Honduras to ask him to tell Colombian President Belisario Betancur not to come to the country due to the tense situation in Honduras. Last night we heard in the National Congress the interview granted by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica. We have asked the president of the National Congress about this situation, and he said that neither he as president of the Congress nor Congress as a body had anything to do with that information and that it had not originated in the Congress. We asked him about the invitation that President Roberto Suazo Cordova made to him in the unfortunate telephone call that took place yesterday. In that telephone call President Roberto Suazo Cordova invited Efrain Bu Giron to go to La Paz. Bu Giron told me, Radio America's reporter in Congress, that he would be present in La Paz and would accept the president's invitation to welcome Colombian President Belisario Betancur as long as Ramon Valladares Soto, the current and already sworn in president of the Supreme Court of Justice, is also present there. He wants Valladares Soto to be there in the official delegation as an official guest of the president.

Valladares Taken to Penitentiary

PA301739 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1554 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] Attention, Ramon Valladares Soto, Supreme Court president recently elected by the National Congress, has just entered the main penitentiary. This is a last-minute report.

Our reporter Jose Alberto Diaz Castillo has confirmed the information: Lawyer Valladares Soto just entered the main penitentiary and made statements to our reporter Diaz Castillo. We have Diaz Castillo on the telelphone. Go ahead, Diaz Castillo.

[Diaz Castillo] Valladares Soto was presented by the Department of National Investigations [DNI] at about 0820. He was accompanied by several DNI agents in plainclothes. He completed his deposition to the court exactly 4 minutes ago and was taken to the main penitentiary. Let's hear statements by Valladares Soto, who had been held in DNI custody since yesterday, when he was accused of treason and plotting against the government by the Honduran state.

[Begin recording] [Diaz Castillo] Radio America listeners would like to know your real situation.

[Valladares Soto] I don't know. You will have to ask the judicial authorities.

[Diaz Castillo] How were you detained?

[Valladares Soto] Two DNI agents were waiting for me when I got home, and I was arrested.

[Diaz Castillo] What can you tell the Honduran people and government?

[Valladares Soto] I am innocent. I am certain that my case will be resolved quickly.

[Diaz Castillo] Were consitutional principles violated in your arrest?

[Valladares Soto] I think so. [end recording]

[Diaz Castillo] These were brief statements by lawyer Valladares Soto, who has been held in DNI custody since yesterday. Valladares Soto and the other new members of the Supreme Court have been accused of treason and plotting against the government at the First Criminal Court.

[Announcer] What is your impression of Valladares Soto's physical condition?

[Diaz Castillo] He looked very sad. He arrived at the court with his head bowed, and he was accompanied by DNI agents. He looked very worried and carried newspapers in his right hand. He was wearing a brown suit and tie with a yellow shirt.

[Announcer] Were there any relatives waiting for him there?

[Diaz Castillo] No. No one. It was an unexpected situation. I imagine that the DNI, to avoid the rush of reporters who cover this court, wanted him here at 0800. Due to heavy traffic, they did not arrive until about 0819. He made his deposition, and about 10 minutes ago he left the court. The judge was not in -- I'd like to point that out. He was questioned by Daniel Boquin, court secretary, who turned him over to the penitentiary's administration office through the La Mora gate.

[Announcer] According to the law, he will remain in detention for 6 days.

[Diaz Castillo] That is true.

[Announcer] For the duration of the questioning period?

[Diaz Castillo] That is true. In the meantime, I imagine his relatives will come to the main penitentiary today or tomorrow since both are visiting days.

[Announcer] How many agents were with him?

[Diaz Castillo] Only two intelligence agents. I think they are the chief or the deputy chief of the DNI or the deputy director, Lieutenant Yanez, and another agent. Both were in plainclothes and riding in a green car.

[Announcer] Did you ask Valladares Soto if he had been mistreated?

[Diaz Castillo] He said he had not. He was well-groomed and dressed, but he had a sad face. It is logical that a person of such moral standing, in finding himself at the DNI, would feel that way.

[Announcer] Has he been kept in Casa Mata or at the DNI?

[Diaz Castillo] He was first taken to Casa Mata, his wife told us yesterday. From Casa Mata he was sent to the DNI where, according to the Constitution, nobody can be detained for more than 24 hours.

PCDH Issues Manifesto

PA302049 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1715 GMT 30 Mar 85

["Manifesto of the Honduran Christian Democratic Party, PCDH, regarding the Institutional Crisis;" place not given; read by unidentified reporter outside the National Congress -- live]

[Text] Hondurans: The political confrontation between the Honduran branches of government is the direct result of the exhaustion [agotamiento] of the Liberal Party in governing the country, the failure of political sectarianism as an administrative method, and the inability of the officials directed by Suazo Cordova to pull Honduras out of the greatest crisis in its history. The confrontation is not the result of the discussion of fundamental interests. Instead it is the direct expression of the moral and ethical crisis affecting the ruling party and, in general, the entire Honduran society. The conflict is the result of Suazo Cordova's errors, his mistaken inclination to subordinate the legislative and judicial branches, and the lack of civic integrity on the part of many public officials and employees who have forgotten their responsibility as citizens.

We have the moral authority to make these statements. Our party has never profited from the law, nor has it confused the meaning of participatory democracy with submission to local leaders who seek personal gain. We, as a political institution, along with many individual Hondurans, cry out against disrespect for the law, the lack of independence among the branches of government, the corruption of the judicial branch, the increasing sectarianism encouraged by the executive branch, the National Congress deputies submission to Suazo Cordova, and everyone's responsibility for supporting foreign interests. We have been saying all of this to encourage public officials to amend their behavior and so that we can better use the democratic experiment begun in 1982.

Nevertheless, we have not been heard. Many deputies, in their naive arrogance, believed that rather than representatives of the people they were first officials of the executive branch. Some justices were so disrespectful that they said, before being loyal to the law, as should be expected, they were absolutely loyal to the president of the Republic. When we demanded that foreign soldiers leave our territory, when we opposed the training of Salvadoran soldiers here, when we demanded an end to support for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, when we called for the investigation of missing persons in Congress, we were described as enemies of democracy. Suazo had to commit every imaginable error and offend the greatest number of deputies before many of them could begin to think about the interests of the country. Their private interests had to be affected before they could decide on implementing rectifications. We are happy that, although late, these rectifications have begun being implemented. What we oppose is political revenge, the exercise of party vengeance, especially when those behind it are placing the Honduran democratic institutions in a precarious position. The Honduran people are aware of our support for legality. Neither in the National Congress, nor in the National Civil Registry, have we ever supported decisions that affect the stability of Honduran institutions.

Therefore, at this critical moment for the Honduran people, we oppose any possibility of a break in the constitutional order, a coup d'etat. The resentment caused by the offenses of the head of the executive branch is not sufficient justification to interrupt the process of democratic restoration in which we have not only invested huge resources but in which the highest hopes of the Honduran people have been placed.

Our support for democratic institutionality in no way means we support the errors of the Liberal administration. On the contrary, we hold Suazo Cordova responsible for the crisis because at the moment the country needs him most he has failed it, because he lacks the republican will and democratic spirit to understand, that power is not an altar for him to be adored on, but instead a base for him to serve the Honduran people. Our support for democratic institutionality is based on our democratic spirit and the fact that the Honduran people have learned that judicial instability, rather than benefiting Honduran society, dangerously postpones the solution of the country's biggest problems. This support is based on the belief that by this time Suazo Cordova should have understood the fragility of his mandate, the dangers to the country resulting from the sectarianism promoted by the president, and the enormous limitations on him as leader of a developing country and that, therefore, he should have sufficient maturity to make rectifications and sufficient sense to understand that Honduras needs a civilian leader who is no only mentally healthy but whose actions indicate a normal mental balance. We have not doubt that the Armed Forces should not again become involved in the exercise of the government and that they should maintain their constitutional position [words indistinct] as sole alternative to pull Honduras out of the current situation.

We ask President Suazo Cordova, on behalf of the national interests, A) to resign as coordinator of the Liberal Rodista Movement; B) to not seek to use his position to impose candidates on his party and on the National Party; C) to not prevent the reform of the electoral and political organization laws presented in the National Cognress; and D) to proceed to reorganize his cabinet to make way for a government of national integration with the best Hondurans, regardless of political affiliation. In exchange, the PCDH offers its dedication, work, and responsible cooperation so that the government of national integration can return to the Honduran people a confidence in the coming electoral process and in democratic institutionality.

We invite all Hondurans of goodwill, especially those who are aware of the dangers the nation is facing, and regardless of their political affiliation to join us in undertaking a new political project that permits us to reorganize the country and gives all national sectors the possibiltiy of responsible and solidaristic participation.

Before the homeland's altar and committed to its best future, we ask for responsibility and seriousness from politicians, we ask the militarymen to refrain from a new coupist adventure, and we ask the Honduran people for serenity and confidence in the new generation of political leaders who, within Christian democacy, have sworn to make Honduras great and to serve it. From the popular power to the political power! National Directorate of the PCDH.

[Signed] Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga, president; (Ignacio Sorto Nunez), secretary; (Ruben Palma Carrasco), vice president; and (Juan Romon Martinez), (Victor Inocencio Peralta), and (Hector Tabora), members.

Deputies' Letter to Gen Lopez

PA310553 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Letter from a group of deputies to Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes; date not given]

[Text] Mr Commander in Chief, as deputies elected by the Honduran people to fulfill constitutional duties which, in our de jure state, will be transformed into benefits for the country, we are respectfully addressing you in order to express our view of the power struggle that has emerged in the past few days based on political issues of personal nature. Some of our colleagues at the National Congress have given this issue institutional importance that hampers successful completion of state affairs.

We are aware of our responsibilities. In addressing you, we do so with the patriotic intention of informing the Armed Forces, through a most distinguished person, of our true activities in defense of the constitutional system implemented in Honduras. We are also encouraged to contribute patriotic solutions based upon actions that would lead to a national understanding because we recognize the mission the Armed Forces have carried out and continue to carry out to reestablish and maintain a democratic and representative system. Your conduct is established in Article 272 of the Constitution, which states that the Armed Forces, as a permanent national institution, must defend the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and maintain peace, public order, and respect for the Constitution. Our actions in the crisis created by our colleagues in the Congress are the result of a firm and comprehensive defense of the constitutional regime. It is no secret that their actions have flagrantly violated the Constitution, seriously endangering implementation of the principle of separation of powers and our dear fatherland's interests.

The companero deputies in question took advantage of a mechanical majority, thus evading any solid jurisdical argument. They have dismissed Supreme Court justices and named their successors in an illegal manner -- all of this in order to satisfy sectarian political interests that should be discussed and solved exclusively within the internal structure of the parties, and not within the branches of state or by state authorities who have specific obligations within a limited scope of duties. As a result of this, these companeros have violated the following laws of the present Constitution. Article 2 establishes that sovereignty belongs to the people who create all of the branches of state, which function through representation, and that to substitute popular sovereignty and wrongfully seize the power of the established branches is considered treason against the fatherland. The article states that in such cases responsibility is undeniable and can be alleged by any citizen. Article 4 establishes that our form of government is republican, democratic, and representative; and that it is exercised by three powers -- legislative, executive, and judicial -- which are complementary but independent, and not subordinate to each other.

Article 304 establishes that the president of the Supreme Court will be elected by the National Congress for a 4-year period. Article 305 states that Supreme Court justices will serve for 4 years and can be reelected. Article 309 states that judges and justices will not be removed, suspended, transferred, or retired, except for the causes established by law, and with the proper guarantees.

As representatives of the people, we could not remain indifferent to attacks on the Constitution such as those we have stated. If we had been indifferent, we would be lending ourselves to the supplantation of the law for irregular actions, and the democratic regime for a dictatorship shaped by the abuse of power. It is our duty, and we are willing to carry it out fully, to strengthen the constitutional government; strengthen the democratic system; and cooperate in the maintenance of a climate of social peace that will allow all Hondurans to normally develop their activities; contribute to the moral, spiritual, and material uplifting of national society; and also contribute to consolidating the juridical and political institutions that constitute the pillars of a system of democratic participation, and not vulgar sectarianism that only hinder our fatherland's path to a better future. As an automatic and unreasonable result of these constitutional violations which we have firmly opposed, there has also been contempt for legally constituted authorities, such as the Supreme Court presided over by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, by a mechanical majority that, due to circumstances, must decide what the legislative branch must go, illegally rejecting the decrees issued by the judicial branch. We think that for Honduras to continue on the path of an authentic democracy that will allow it to develop economically and socially, respect for our juridical regime is essential, as it has been created by the Honduran people through the sovereign exercise of their will.

We also think that the present crisis must be solved immediately, through understanding and good judgment, and, above all, Honduran interests must be above any selfish intentions. In this situation it was necessary to maintain public order to avoid falling into anarchy. In this regard, we think that the president's message to the Armed Forces on 28 March through you, a most distinguished person, was truly appropriate and opportune. The message fits in with Article 245, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4, which authorize the chief of the executive branch to fulfill and implement the Constitution, direct general state policies, keep the Republic's independence and honor untouched, and maintain internal peace and security. Any interference by one branch of state in the other's affairs constitutes a dangerous and unpatriotic precedent that could lead to chaos and despotism. The independent and complementary functioning of the branches of state, as indicated in the Constitution, is essential for the existence and strengthening of democracy. Each branch of state must fulfill its duties with a high degree of responsibility and cooperation for the Republic's benefit. If any irregularities are proven in any of the branches of state, the text of the Constitution itself and the pertinent secondary laws offer the adequate juridical procedures to correct irregularities and find solutions. To act in any other way, as has happened at the National Congress, is to violate the Constitution that the deputies are obliged to observe and lend oneself to actions that are damaging to the independence, sovereignty, and integrity of Honduras.

Our country maintains cordial relations with countries on all continents and it is a member of international organizations created to promote understanding among nations. Therefore, we must strengthen our ability to participate in international relations, giving tangible examples of respect for law, and demonstrating our willingness to make agreements to solve internal and external problems with the serious desire to negotiate, conduct dialogue, and reach agreements. Honduras has internal problems to solve and external problems to face.

We will successfully achieve this if we promote a climate of unity in diversity, since out strength will be in the indestructible cohesion of all of the political, economic, cultural, and social sectors. This strength suffers and diminishes with obstinate attitudes such as those adopted by the National Congress deputies who are arbitrarily imposing their will and forgetting that Honduras must be first; that we are in the midst of a negotiations process to delineate our border with El Salvador; that we are participating in bilateral negotiations with the United States to achieve sufficient economic cooperation for our country to achieve well-being and the means of defense that will guarantee the state's security; that we are participating in the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in Central America; that the international community closely observes these events and what we are doing in Honduras; and that in the region we have a system conceived in Marxist totalitarianism which, because of its expansionist nature, is determined to create crises and problems with other Central American nations that are struggling for democracy, justice, and liberty.

The thoughts that we expressed determine our conduct as defenders of the Constitution and democracy in the National Congress. We will continue this line of conduct because we love our fatherland above all things. In addressing you and through your most distinguished person of the Armed Forces, we do so with the clear awareness of the responsibility that we have pointed out. We know what the members of our Armed Forces think: The military institution should not interfere in political affairs. We respect and applaud this decision, which professionally and institutionally exalts our Armed Forces. Tomorrow, 31 March, is the first anniversary of the internal restructuring of our Armed Forces, which has been accurately described as a movement of recovery. We admire this attitude and we support it from our parliamentary position. In addressing the Armed Forces, we do so with patriotic feeling. We wanted to inform you of the reaso s that motivated our constitutionalist conduct in the National Congress. It is imbued with these intentions that we express to the Armed Forces our sincere and respectful greeting, our sincere congratulations for its exemplary behavior in favor of Honduras, and our best wishes for its success in its mission for the benefit of the fatherland.

Very sincerely, [Signed] Rafael Antonio Ardon Fuentes, Armando Bardales Paz, Carlos Arturo Bueso Chinchilla, Miguel Said Handal, Modesto Arnaldo Chacon Soto, Carlos Roberto Flores Facusse, Ivan (Hughes Jones), Juan de la Cruz Avelar Leiba, Antonio Orlando Benitez Perino, Antonio Blanco Moreno, Ada Argentina Santos Morales, Manfredo Fajardo Aguirre, Jose Dolores Gonzalez Vallecio, Benigno Ramon Irias Enriquez, Rafael Pineda Ponce, Carlos Humberto Aguilar Pineda, Rolando (Melgen) Bonilla, Roberto Micheletti Baines, Jose Elias Nassar Romero, Daniel David Quezada Fernandez, Emiliana Umanzor Lopez de Calderon, Irma Sosa Martinez de Pineda, Vilma Isabel Malta de Gutierrez, Idalia Gerondina Mendoza Rivera de Medal, Armando Moreno Alvarado, Mario Enrique Prieto Alvarado, Maria Irma Quezada de Martinez, Rene Paz Alvarez, Carlos Octavio Rivas Garcia, Marco Tulio Rodriguez Palomo, Jose Armando Fletes Hernandez, Ignacio Alberto Rodriguez Espinosa, and Gustavo Simon Nunez.

Suazo on 'Breach' of Constitution

PA311926 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1817 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Interview with President Roberto Suazo Cordova by (Gustavo Rubir) on 31 March in La Paz -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Suazo] Thank you for allowing me to address the Honduran people via this station, directed by my dear friend Rodrigo Wong Arevalo.

I wish to send a warm greeting to all the people and reiterate what I said in my earlier message: Remain calm and serene. Today we are expecting with open arms Colombian President Belisario Betancur, one of the outstanding democrats of Latin America and one of the principal promoters of the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in Central America.

[Rubir] The arrival of a South American president, namely Belisario Betancur, gives the impression that your health is good and that you are in good shape to deal with any problem.

[Suazo] As you can see, I have just walked about 2 km, as I usually do when I have time. I always ride 2 km on my stationary bicycle. I am feeling very strong, thanks to God, whom I always ask to enlighten my steps and advise me to do what must be done to benefit Honduras. We are intent on maintaining order, peace, and security in our country, because that is a constitutional duty to which I am committed. I have had to make use of my constitutional privileges, namely Article 4, paragraph 4. I also issued orders to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces according to Article 278 [words indistinct] through the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Yesterday I had to issue a bulletin rejecting a report by UPI, citing EL HERALDO, which carried insulting statements by several deputies who said I had issued arrest warrants against the justices of the Supreme Court elected in violation of the Constitution. As I said in many message, Articles 304, 305, and 309 had been violated, and this can be corroborated by any legal expert anywhere in the world. After I issued that bulletin the Supreme Court headed by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo issued another communique that was read over a national radio network during a meeting of the foreign secretary with all members of the diplomatic corps to brief them on developments. [as heard] Tomorrow at about 1930 or 2000 there will be another press conference over radio and television networks, during which the foreign secretary, Presidency Minister Ubodoro Arriaga, and Deputy Rafael Pineda Ponce will further clarify for the Honduran people my government's decision to maintain peace and tranquillity to benefit the community. There are people who do not yet understand or are not analyzing the Central American crisis in-depth. There are others who, understanding the crisis, want to use it to fan the flames or as a pawn of international communism. We are not persecuting anyone in Honduras; there is full-fledged democracy in Honduras. I would like all those people who are making such a fuss to go to Nicaragua to see what Tomas Borge, Lenin Cerna, and Daniel and Humberto Ortega would do to them. Here they enjoy full freedom; so much so that they have insulted the president of the Republic by publicly asking him to resign. Why don't they go to my office to ask for my resignation so that I can enforce the law and explain to them what they are doing? They should have thought of the consequences of violating the Constitution. It is they who have violated the Constitution. Suazo Cordova and the Armed Forces are upholding the Constitution. The Congress staged what is a virtual coup d'etat, a breach of constitutional order. We are preserving order by defending the legal Supreme Court led by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo.

Charges Prepared Against Deputies

PA011300 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Fifty-three deputies of our National Congress may be brought to trial for violating the constitutional norms of President Suazo Cordova's government. This is a result of the latest events between the judicial branch and the Supreme Court of Justice. [as heard]

Radio America learned last night from reliable sources that the First Criminal Court has prepared a pretrial document charging 53 deputies with violating Articles 119, 120, and 121 of the Penal Code, enacted on 13 March of this year approved by the National Congress headed by lawyer Bu Giron. Honduran congressmen enjoy immunity. To try these congressmen, a series of legal procedures must be followed, according to the new Penal Code.

SUAZO WELCOMES BETANCUR, PRAISES PEACE EFFORTS

PA010321 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0010 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Speech delivered by President Roberto Suazo Cordova at the arrival of Colombian President Belisario Betancur at Palmerola Air Force Base, near La Paz, Honduras -- live]

[Text] Mr President, distinguished members of the presidential entourage: In expressing our most fraternal welcome, Honduras embraces Colombia, a sister nation of our American continent, united by the same origin and a common destiny proclaimed by Valle and Bolivar. Honduras and Colombia are lands of Indian soul [alma morena] that live in liberty now embrace in the struggle for peace; for a peace without hegemony, without injustice or disgraceful inequalities, for a peace that will not sacrifice liberty, that will not be subdued by despotism. As you once stressed, peace in the Central American isthmus should be multidimensional, just like our problems are. We need political, economic, and social peace. To this end, it is absolutely necessary to maintain a firm determination that will enable us to find formulas of commitment that will guarantee to the peoples the free expression of their freedom, and protect the governments against the warmongering threats of political destabilization and the existence of totalitarian and expansionist-minded regimes.

The challenge is enormous, and the problem is very complex. As you well pointed out, the peace and war policies have followed erratic and many times unpredictable courses. Victory cannot be achieved easily, and we cannot expect that by magic, the spirits, and hence those up in arms, will suddenly stop fighting. Nevertheless, we have been working tirelessly to this end and will continue doing so because it is our moral and historical duty to achieve and maintain peace. Under these circumstances, Mr President, your visit encourages our vocation for peace, and reaffirms our belief in democratic solidarity. This is not the first time that we have seen you trudging across the vast American horizons on a peace mission. To the Colombian president, Central America has an unpayable debt of gratitude. We are grateful for your indefatigable efforts in favor of a honorable agreement between our peoples, of the elimination of antagonisms, of development of pluralistic institutions, and of creation of adequate conditions for our economic and social development. The Contadora Group initiative and the cooperation agreement between the EEC and Central American are currently in progress as tangible proof of your unlimited efforts. During your brief visit in the heart of Central America, we will have the opportunity to discuss the distressing problems of our subregion. May the quietness and simplicity of La Paz, my hometown, renew our friendship, inspire the success of our meeting, and stress the personal affection and admiration with which I welcome you, Mr President, and your distinguished retinue. [applause]

[Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish at 2112 GMT on 29 March, from the Honduran Presidency's communique, adds: "President Betancur and his delegation to be welcomed by President Roberto Suazo Cordova, government cabinet members, the dean of the diplomatic corps, Supreme Court of Justice President Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, National Congress President Jose Efrain Bu Giron, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Walter Lopez Reyes, Armed Forces Chief of the Joint Staff Colonel Efrain Gonzalez Munoz, and by the general commanders of the different branches of the Armed Forces."]

COUNCIL OF STATE ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS

FL011144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Next, we will present the Council of State's accords published today in GRANMA, official newspaper of our party Central Committee. The text shows the appointment of Comrade Rosa Helena Simeon Negrin, as president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. She is replacing Comrade Wilfredo Torres. Comrade Rosa Helena Simeon Negrin, Central Committee member, was director of the National Plant and Animal Health Center.

It was also decided to appoint Comrade Robert Logando Zas as minister of light industry. He is replacing Comrade Manuel Millares Rodriguez. Comrade Roberto Ogando Zas was Executive Bureau member of the party provincial committee and president of the People's Government Provincial Assembly in Las Tunas.

Comrade Rodrigo Garcia Leon was appointed minister president of the State Committee for Finance. He was replacing Comrade Francisco Garcia Valls. Comrade Rodrigo Garcia Leon was vice president of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply.

The Council of State document announces the appointment of Comrade Conrado Martinez Corona as president of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation. He is replacing Comrade Carlos Galvan Vila. Comrade Conrado Martinez Corona was second secretary of the National Committee of the Union of Young Communists.

The comrades released from their duties by the appointments made by these accords will be assigned other responsibilities.

The Council of Ministers also approved the appointment of Comrade Alberto Juan Torena for the post of vice president of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation. He is replacing Comrade Miguel Llaneras who will be assigned to other duties.

FURTHER REPORT ON CASTRO'S EXCELSIOR INTERVIEW

Examines Foreign Debt

FL292010 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1744 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Ideologies aside, Third World countries should unite to overcome the economic and social crisis affecting them, Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz has emphatically said. In his interview in Havana with the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, the leader of the Cuban revolution emphatically said that the Latin American countries are tired of their empty sacrafices since the problem has ceased being technical and changed into a political one, and is now starting to transform itself into a revolutionary problem.

Fidel Castro, 59 years, and undoubtedly one of the most respected leaders, said current foreign debt renegotiations do not resolve anything because they are one-sided. For the Cuban leader, this is the time to form a club or group of Latin American countries to face the fight against the powerful because the situation is so critical and cannot be resolved unilateraly. In this sense, Castro said that Third World nations, because of their political importance, enormous debt, social crisis, and the risk of an explosion with an unforseeable outcome, are in a better position than any other region in the world to conduct a joint action and seriously take up the problem.

According to the Mexican newspaper and Castro's statements, the pressure which the creditor banks exercise over Latin American countries to demand that they institute a series of measures which could prevent a financial crisis can somehow be reserved. Many Latin American leaders, said Castro, have already presented in precise terms their premises on the foreign debt, which could be the first step in the fight. Nevertheless, he added, it is inconceivable at this stage that the first thing which is said, is that the countries of this hemisphere affected by the financial situation, should not form a debtors club while the creditor nations are closely united at the IMF and the Paris Club. Within this framework, the Cuban leader felt that the debtor nations, acting for their own benefit, instead of achieving a definite solution, will only obtain paliative formulas which hardly mitigate their problems.

Referring to the Cartagena Consensus, which was reduced to 11 countries because of the belief that a large group would make analysis and negotiations more difficult, he said this determination had been undemocratic because they could not even clearly explain why some had the privilege of being part of this body while others could not.

Castro Ruz felt that all the Latin American nations should be included and that even countries such as Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and others of greater weight and length in being independent in the Caribbean should be included, because their debts are also large.

In this respect, the Cuban revolutionary said that in stating this problem it is not with the thought of also including Cuba or of describing the situation in his country, because Cuba is the only country in Latin America or the Caribbean which is immune to the crisis. He explained to EXCELSIOR that the Cuban hard currency debt is just $300 per inhabitant and Cuba has no problem in its financial relations or in its trade with the socialist community, with which it carries out about 85 percent of its trade.

Between 1981 and 1984, he continued, Cuba's overall social product [producto social global] grew by 24.8 percent and the product per inhabitant grew by 22.6 percent, so development plans for the next 15 years are assured, which Castro said would be a privilege for any nation in times like these.

The Cuban leader enthusiastically told the Mexican daily that solving the debt problem would only be the beginning. It is also necessary to demand a halt to unequal trade, protectionist policies the practice of dumping, abusive monetary policies, excessive interest rates, the overvaluation of the dollar, and other things that make Latin American development impossible.

For years, in the UN, the Nonaligned Movement, and all the international organizations, we have been demanding a more just economic order and better prices for our products, loans and development resources, said Castro. When they demand that Latin America alone pay $400 million over 10 years, we are in a position to say we will not accept this plundering. We will not pay not even if they threaten to suspend loans to us. Castro Ruz said the $400 million the creditors want to extract from the sweat and sacrifice of the Latin American peoples could, if well-spent, finance the development of Latin America for the next 10 years because each country could lend itself the amount it is paying in interest.

Comments on U.S.-Mexican Relations

FL302008 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1850 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The recent measures taken by the United States on its border with Mexico were considered by Cuban Head of State Fidel Castro to be bullying and humiliating to a respectful, respectable country. During his interview with the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, the revolutionary leader showed intense indignation at the U.S. attitude, which he described as not only arrogant but stupid because it irritated without solving anything.

He added he was amazed when he read newspaper reports saying the measures taken had the objective of pressuring Mexico to produce those responsible for the death of a U.S. government official. Castro said a government such as the Mexican Government cannot be held responsible for such things because Mexico is a nation that, because of its evolution, merits all respects; nevertheless, he said, this affair does no harm to Mexico because everyone is aware of the maneuver, which has produced sympathy for Mexico.

In his frank defense of Mexico, the Cuban head of state said that a Lazaro Cardenas could not be found in any other country; through Cardenas, Mexico was the first Latin American nation to nationalize the petroleum industry. Castro, who knows Mexican history and the Mexican revolution well, also mentioned Emiliano Zapata, considered to be a symbol in Latin America because of his peasant origin and his struggle for agrarian reform. Castro also showed his admiration for Francisco Villa, saying: I am exicited by his astuteness, talent, and ability to develop as a leader despite his lack of schooling. Because of all of the foregoing, Castro said, I believe Mexico is being underestimated because it is a country that has not only fought against the Spanish conquistadors but also against the French invaders and the American occupation forces, besides giving refuge to persons persecuted by tryanny.

The Cuban president expressed his concern at the lack of consideration by the United States towards Mexico. He said these are stupid acts stemming from a bullying, arrogant philosophy on the treatment of Latin American countries. On this subject, he said Latin American countries will acquire greater awareness of all these problems, which will cause greater unity and solidarity among the nations of the region because we are not as defenseless and contemptible as they imagine. The United States greatly underestimates the Latin American people because of a lack of knowledge of their capabilities and their liking for different social tendencies, as is the case with the conservatives, he said.

Speaking more generally about the region, he said the United States has a mistaken idea of the peoples of the area. He said that, for example, intervention in Nicaragua would be an inconceivcable error because of its consequences, in addition to being absurd, because the problems of Central America cannot be solved by force. These problems, he added, have been invented by the United States, because the theory that Nicaragua is a danger to the stability of the American Union is a story that not even a child could believe. Almost talking to himself, the robust revolutionary said this myth cannot be maintained if one bears in mind that the United States is the most powerful nation in the world, the one that is preparing for war in space, the one that has MX missile technology and B-1 bombers and hundreds of foreign bases, and this is the country that fears for its own security!

Castro, one of the most respected revolutionary leaders, believes that, as part of its strategy of empire, the United States uses fascist-style lies and deceitfulness in its mass media communications. It is true that security is important for a country as powerful as the United States, but it is also true that one cannot even speak of a Nicaraguan threat when it is a question of a small nation whose only weapon is its willingness to fight to defend its sovereignty.

Regarding relations between Mexico and Cuba, Castro said they are excellent and that political contacts have been strengthened because a greater sense of Latin American identity is developing, in addition to the fact that both countries have historic foundations. The Cuban statesman described Mexico as a serious government, respectful and respectable, whose institutions and principles are based on ethical norms of a great sense of independence and dignity, for which reasons Cuba has great faith and trust in Mexico.

PANAMA

BETANCUR ARRIVES, MEETS WITH ARDITO BARLETTA

PA311443 Paris AFP in Spanish 1418 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Panama City, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Official sources have announced that Colombian President Belisario Betancur arrived here today, where he will analyze the Central American situation and matters of bilateral interest with Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

After a protocol ceremony, the two presidents met privately in the diplomatic room of the Omar Torrijos International Airport. At the end of the meeting, which will last more than 1 hour, the two presidents will issue a declaration to the press, according to Panamanian presidential spokesmen. Betancur will then leave for Costa Rica, another stop on his trip through the area, which will end with a visit to the United States.

NORIEGA VISITS JOINT U.S. ROAD PROJECT

PA291544 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, toured the southern region of Veraguas, where the armies of Panama and the United States have been participating in joint military engineering exercises since the beginning of the year. Noriega was accompanied by military attaches accredited to our country and Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma. The group inspected the almost 60-km road built by U.S. National Guardsmen and members of the military engineering reinforcement company under Major Virgilio Mirones. The work on the Maraito-Arena de Quebro road will end in late May. The road will benefit a vast region which is without electricity. This is a cattle region which also produces citric fruit, vegetables, and grains.

A spokesman for the Defense Forces said that the joint work of the armies of the United States and Panama in this region can be estimated at a value of $20 million.

The inhabitants of the region asked Gen Noriega to install electricity and build new access roads. The petition was made during a rally in Las Flores, where the 6-km Arenas-Las Flores road and a cafeteria for the Las Flores elementary school were inaugurated.

VENEZUELA

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES, MET BY LUSINCHI

PA310931 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Caracas, 30 Mar (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur arrived today in Caracas where he was met by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

The Colombian Air Force plane in which Betancur was traveling landed at the Generalisimo Francisco de Miranda Base where Betancur was awaited by Lusinchi, Interior Minister Octavio Lepage, Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi, Colombian Ambassador to Venezuela Alberto Zalemea, and Venezuelan Ambassador to Colombia Luis la Corte.